

# Flatland Fly Fishers

Wichita, Kansas

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

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**Presidents Line**

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Anyone who would like to share pictures or articles for the Newsletter should contact the editors at:  
07editor@flatlandflyfishers.org

Fall is a very busy time for our club, with our Banquet, Women's Program, and Trout season. It is also the time of year for elections, and November is our election meeting where you will have the opportunity to elect or reelect all new officers. I have asked Kendal Rush to chair an election committee in order to facilitate the election process. The earlier

we start this process the more time we will have to organize a list of candidates. New officers are healthy for any organization, bringing in new ideas and direction so the club does not get stagnated. Elections give equal opportunity for all members to be involved with the decisions and direction. I would urge all members to fulfill a position for at least one year. This allows you an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes and gives you a voice in planning all of the events. These positions are not just for those who have been in the club for a long time; they are for any member new or old. The only requirements are a desire to see the club prosper and grow. If you would like to be involved then you need to let Kendal know so we can put you on the ballot.

Don't forget that September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6AM we will be working on Slough creek rebuilding the dams and cutting fallen trees. Bring your waders and gloves for a day of rewarding work so that the trout will have a good place to swim this fall.

Jeff Currier is booked for the winter program for February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This will be a very informative two days, so make plans to bring your family and friends to this event. Events like this help pay for all of the other activities we schedule for the following year.

See you on the water.

Stuart



*Stuart with a nice Stripper*

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**Next Meeting Sept. 4, 7:00 P.M.**

**September Club Meeting****The Art of Bamboo Rod Making**

Bamboo rod builder Curt Elder will be our featured speaker at the September meeting. The program will include a photo slide of the steps it takes to build a bamboo rod from no more than a culm, (stalk), of bamboo.

Curt Elder is a full time maker who has been hand crafting split bamboo fly rods for over 11 years.

Artistry has been a long time passion for Curt. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at Kansas University where he double majored in Painting and Printmaking. Curt started out studying commercial art but found that his skills were such that he received educational grants in the Fine Arts school. When Elder graduated in 1977 he was awarded a grant that allowed him to move out to the San Francisco Bay area, where he worked on his art in the loft of a warehouse in Berkeley.

Curt got interested in rod building through his love of how bamboo casts and admiration of Everett Garrison. In particular, Garrison's semi parabolic design formula and emphasis on non-superfluous detail are the inspiration for many Elder Rods.

Curt started his first rod company, with his father, under the name of The Elder Rod Company in Burnham, Pa. The company operated out of Curt's father's machine shop where the prototypes for many of the rod models Elder Rods offers today were designed and built.

Today Elder Rods operates in Overland Park, Kansas under the ownership of Curt Elder who personally designs and creates each rod produced. Rods are made either to reference standard specifications which Curt has developed over the years or to customer specifications with regard to taper design and cosmetics. All of the rods are crafted with an artist's touch. Curt carefully selects his bamboo culms and hardware to ensure that his rods meet the highest quality.

Word of Curt's commitment to the very highest level of quality is spreading. Curt was recently honored when legendary rod maker, Daryll Whitehead examined one of Curt's rods and then invited Curt to spend time in Oregon perfecting his skill under the Daryll's masterful guidance. Many discriminating bamboo rod collectors feel that Daryll Whitehead is the greatest living rod maker and more than a few would argue he is the greatest to ever live. Curt is now using the ultra high quality, time intensive, Whitehead finishing techniques to insure that today's Elder Rods are absolute masterpieces.

Curt is an avid fly fisher who spends many hours on the water testing his designs and build quality. From the streams and high alpine lakes of the Rocky Mountains to the famous Missouri tail waters, to the fabled waters of the East coast, Curt can be found bamboo in hand, putting his designs to task in real world conditions. Not only does Curt pride himself on making a beautiful rod but he is just as proud of building rods that bring a smile to an angler's face when they actually fish them.

When asked where he sees his business going, Curt says "I consider myself to be a craftsman and build each rod based on the customers input and with their satisfaction in mind. I would like to see bamboo rod building remain, as it is today for the most part, a cottage industry. Daryll Whitehead is my mentor and he has asked me to share my skill and knowledge with talented young rod makers. I hope to help mentor some of those in the next generation of bamboo rod builders so Daryll's commitment to excellence lives on for future generations".

**Curt Elder**

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## ***Notes From A New Member***

Jerry Donnelly

---

I joined the club in search of a new hobby for my retirement. Which is exactly what I found: A hobby, new friends, and a great way to pass the time. It has been well over a year since my first club meeting, and while I can truly say I am having a lot of fun, but rest assured it wasn't easy.

I thought I was in a foreign country at my first club meeting. Everyone was speaking English, but the terminology was completely new. Eventually I managed to catch on, and figured out that there was a difference between leaders and tipits; not to mention that a "wet fly" wasn't just a fly. It actually works under water. While a "dry fly" floats on top of the water. I kept going to the meetings and eventually these new terms began to make sense.

Now, I am hooked on fly fishing! I have found a great bunch friends to spend time with. They love fly fishing as much as I do, and they are willing to help anyone interested in learning the sport.

At one of our meetings, we had a lesson on casting with the fly rod. It was an intriguing lesson. This lesson set my hobby in motion. I went to buy my first fly rod and reel combination. I had no idea what to look for, and was at the mercy of the clerk. Thank goodness I went to the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield. The store clerk was a big help. He fixed me up with a (4) piece (5) wt. rod with reel string and case. It was a great buy! I am still using the rod today.

That summer I started fishing with some club members. I watched while others caught fish and with their help I would catch a few fish too. They were patient and encouraging.

My next challenge was learning to tie flies. I started with a kit that I bought on sale for \$15.00. It came with instructions. My first question was how to start a thread on a hook. I called Dwan for help. He made it seem simple. Tying flies has become a challenge I welcome. What a thrill it was the first time I caught a Blue Gill with a fly I had tied. The fly was far from perfect. It was ugly and falling apart. The fish didn't care. It was my fly, I made it, and I caught a fish with it! It doesn't get better than that. Unfortunately, the thrill of the moment, left my line tangled up in a tree, and I broke the end off of my rod trying to get my line loose. Neal Hall put another end on it and I am still using the rod.

Fishing over at Slough Creek with Rick Brown and Kevin Boddy has helped me with casting and fly selection. With their help I have become more comfortable with the fly rod. Learning to cast, has helped me to pick up other skills as well. I have practiced untangling leaders to the point I feel like I am an expert. Today, I just cut off the leader and tie on another.

Flies, what little buggers they are. They are tiny, with even tinier eyes for attaching to the line. I am sure I have dropped my share of flies and left them laying in the dirt. I have found a tool that helps with tying a fly on the leader. It makes things a lot easier. One day when I was struggling with those little buggers, I think Kevin Boddy could see my frustration and he offered to help. He tied the fly on, and we continued to fish. Later, on my way home I discovered I was wearing a pair of sun glasses that were 10 years old. With proper glasses, tying flies on my leader became much easier.

A couple of weeks ago, I got to see how much my skills had improved. I was fishing at a local pond, and after finding where the crappie were located, I caught more fish in 1-2 hours, than I care to count. Almost every cast was hit.

Bottom line, I encourage all of you interested in learning to fly fish, to hang in there. There is always something new to learn. Fly fishing is a rewarding experience, and the excitement of catching fish on a fly rod is completely different than using a spinning reel. My experiences so far, indicate that with a fly rod, you can catch more fish!



## High Sierra Fly Fishing

Stephen Nance



A crisp clear morning and clear skies, temps are in the 60's making the conditions ideal for good hatches. A short drive, perhaps 5 minutes, brings me to the middle fork of the Tuolumne River, a tributary to the main fork. Upon arrival I immediately notice the river looks to be high from run-off. The thought crosses my mind instinctively; the fish will be moved out to the sides of the river. A closer inspection after rigging up my 3 weight and putting on my waders, proves my suspicion is correct.

Rigging up the go to rig, a size 16 micro mayfly with a dropper size 20 WD-40 is something that doesn't really cross my mind. It seems to happen impulsively. I pick out a fish to cast to. There is one fish in the very deepest part of the run. I can barely make out his figure, but I see him working side to side. This fish seems to

be feeding in the seam (where two different paced currents come together). Looks to be a good 16 inches, if not more. The flies do not reach the fish on the first drift. I apply another split-shot. Second cast he looks at it, and even comes out of his feeding lane slightly to do so, but no take. That drift had a little drag on it. This time I make a good reach cast upstream to keep drag to a minimum, then immediately raise my rod tip to keep slack off the water; the perfect drift. The flies should be right in front of the fish's nose, but the fish doesn't budge. Suddenly, my indicator stops. Unconsciously I set the hook, and the white belly of the fish turns over. Fish on! After a couple of exciting runs with the 3-weight rod bending over double, the beautiful 17 inch rainbow submits defeat. I net the fish carefully, not to catch the small size 16 micro mayfly he didn't take in the net. It was the size 20 WD-40 he feel victim to. Inner top lip, perfect. The hook pops right out with the clinched barb, and I release the fish in a timely manner. The fish swims away almost in a style that suggest thankfulness. Then I realize; 'I am clocked in right now', I am getting paid to catch fish! Yet that thought doesn't last long, I just saw a rise, and I noticing a mid-morning caddis hatch coming of the crystal clear water. Time to get back to work.

I live just outside of Yosemite National Park. My current job title is head fly fishing guide of Evergreen Lodge. It is a small "resort" that employs around 80-90 employees during the prime tourist months. I live on-site in employee housing. The rent is \$90 a week, which includes the room, 3 meals a day, laundry, internet, and phone. Most of my time is spent out on the water with clients, or by myself exploring new waters to take clients to.

The fishing here is very interesting and technical. For the most part, small rivers with pocket water and deeps runs are the norm. Nymphing is used most often to catch fish. The standard rig here is some type of size 14-16 nymph as a head fly, and then a small midge dropped of the back approximately 16 inches. Tungsten bead heads are a necessity out here. Catching a fish is usually one split shot away. I am told the dry fly action has not picked up to what it will be, but I have gotten into PMD, caddis, ants, and green drakes hatches.



## ***High Sierra Fly Fishing***

Stephen Nance



Guiding fly fishing is one of the most challenging things I have ever done. The communication and word choice needs to be very simplistic and to the point, yet descriptive enough for the client to grasp the full concept. The hardest thing for most clients to comprehend is the technique of mending the line. I have found this one simple technique will allow most people to catch fish. 95 percent of the people I take out have never touched a fly rod before. Needless to say, I have a lot of pressure on me to put them on fish.

An average day for me would include waking up in the morning around 6:00 getting the rods and waders ready, and making sure the van has gas. Then it is time to meet the clients around 7:00, and fit them for waders. We go out on the water for 4 hours for a half day and 6 for a full day. Sometimes I will have two half day trips in a day (AM, PM). So I will be working for a good 12 hours that day. The point is its hard work. Yet at the end of the day I feel accomplish in sharing my passion with another person about the feeling I get every time I step into the river and see fish holding in the current.

## ***Slough Creek Work Day***

Gary Tatro

The Slough Creek clean-up and structure restoration will be Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 AM. We'll need all the help we can get as we will be setting 300 new bags of rip-rap that were generously donated to this project by Quikrete. We will also be doing some trimming and other cleanup; so handsaws, shovels and maybe some chainsaws will likely be of help. Waders would also be a good idea unless you want to wade wet. If you are one of the many club members that enjoy this local resource, please make a point of showing up to help out. These improvements will ultimately improve the fishing and by helping out you will be building some good fish catching karma for the following months!

## ***Basic Fly Fishing with Ken McCloskey***

Ken McCloskey, Educational chair, is going to start a 3 session class covering basic fly fishing. The sessions will be during regular meetings starting in September and continuing through October and November. Ken will cover fish and their habitat, fly fishing equipment and knots, and introduction to casting. The sessions will be geared for the beginner/new fly fisherperson and be limited to the first 10 members. After the class is full all others will be put on a "next class list".



## ***Fly Fishing Western New York***

Kevin Boddy

Growing up in New York State, between Buffalo and Niagara Falls my dad taught me how to fish at a very early age. We would spend many hours out on Lake Erie or the Niagara River trolling or drifting for Walleye, Bass or Muskie. Trout fishing was only done in the spring when it was still too cold for fishing on the river or the lake. When I became old enough to drive and had my own car was when I was able to get away and explore Western New York streams at other times than spring. This is when I got interested in fly fishing for trout.

Now that I live in Wichita I try to get back once a year to visit my dad, brothers and friends that still live in that area. The one thing that tops my "to do list" is to get a day or two of fly fishing in on a Western New York trout stream.



14 inch Western New York Brown Trout

My brother Brian, my long time friend Paul and I decided on an afternoon trip to a stream that Paul had good luck on the week before. The stream that Paul took us to was Oatka Creek near the town of Mumford, about 60 miles east of Buffalo. Oatka Creek has public access right along highway 36. This stream is managed by the New York Department of Conservation. I had never fished this stream before. The weather was just right for an afternoon on a trout stream, sunny in the low 70's and light winds. When we arrived at Oatka Creek Public Parking Area right next to the stream, there weren't any other cars there. I thought this is going to be good, no other fishermen around.

Even before getting our waders on we took a look from the 36 highway bridge crossing the creek. The creek was clear and there was a deep pool just below the bridge. In the bottom of the pool we could see 15 to 20 browns facing up stream, just waiting for some tasty morsel to come floating by. We watched the trout for about 5 minutes and once in a while one would rise to pick a bug off the top of water.



Brian landing a nice Brown Trout



Paul with a nice fish



## ***Fly Fishing Western New York***

Kevin Boddy

Heading back to the car and putting on our waders I knew that this stream would be perfect for my 7 1/2 ft. 3wt. Temple Fork rod. The stream wasn't very wide and I know that there wouldn't be any casts over 30 ft. Paul suggested starting with a Hornberg with a 12" dropper with a Brassie on the end, since he had good luck with this pattern a week before. I decided to fish the pool below the bridge while Brian and Paul made their way up stream. Casting into the pool that held the fish that we had watched from the bridge I didn't get any takers, noticing an occasional fish to come up out of the pool and slurp a bug that I was unable to see off the waters surface. After fishing the Hornberg – Brassie for 15 minutes I decided to change flies. Looking in my box I picked up a foam Beetle thinking that this is early July and there should be plenty of beetles around this time of year. My guess was right, On my third cast a brown rose to take the beetle and I was rewarded with a 10 inch fish.



My second fish was a little better, being 12 inches. I managed to catch a couple more fish in the 10 – 12 inch range. I had fished this hole for 45 minutes and by this time Brian had made his way back down stream standing on the opposite side of the bank from me. I made my way over to him and found out that the only thing that he had caught was a small bass. I gave him a foam beetle and we both crossed back to the other bank. I went back to fishing the pool by the bridge with no more takers on the foam beetle. Trying a couple of wet flies I didn't have any more luck. Looking down stream to where Brian was fishing 50 yards away it looked like he was having better luck than I was, and I watched him land a nice 12 incher. Working my way down stream beyond

where Brian was I found a tree limb that was hanging in the water a couple of feet out from the other bank. This would be a good spot to try a nymph I said myself. Opening my fly box I chose a Caddis Fly Pupa that I had tied for the Caddis Fly hatch on the Arkansas in Colorado. I had trouble getting the right drift under the hanging tree limb. There was some fishing line that another fisherman had left that would catch my leader and cause drag. On one of these bad drift I lifted my rod tip to make another cast. As the fly made its way back towards me a trout dashed out from under the tree branch and grabbed my fly. I set the hook and could tell that this fish was a little bigger than the ones that I had caught earlier. After the trout made a couple of nice runs I was able to bring it to the net. The brown was the best fish of the day a nice 14 incher.

We all met back at the car and moved to another spot on Oakta Creek where Paul caught a nice 13 incher. We had a nice afternoon of fishing for Browns on a Western New York stream. I plan to fish Oakta Creek again when I go back to New York next year.

### ***2008 Fall Banquet***

Mark your calendar to attend the Flatland Fly Fishers Fall Banquet.

**Where:** Camp Hiawatha

**When:** October 25, 2008

Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the September and October meetings.

### ***2009 Winter Program***

Keep February 7 & 8 of 2009 available so you can attend the Winter Program. The guest speaker for this program will be Jeff Currier.

Look for more information about the Winter Program in future newsletters.

For information about our guest speaker, Jeff Currier, visit his website.

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



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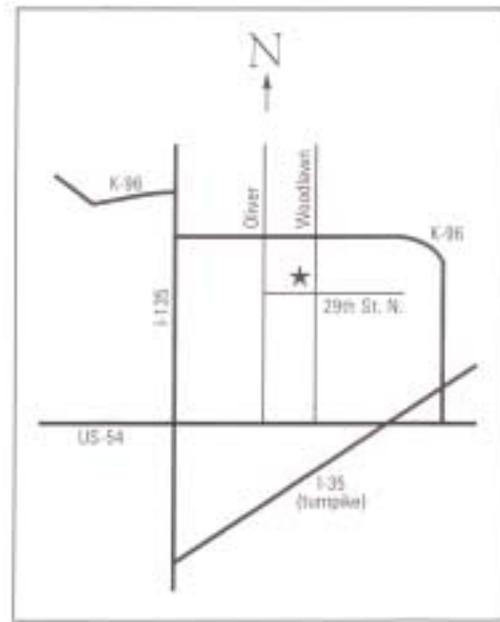
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**Flatland Fly Fishers**



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Wichita, KS  
67201

**Flatland Flyfishers meet monthly at the  
Great Plains Nature Center, located at  
6232 E. 29th St. N, Wichita, KS**



**ITEMS FOR SALE:**

St. Croix 5wt 8 1/2ft (4 pc) \$175 Legend Ultra Bob  
Jacklin Rod (High Mileage):  
8wt 9ft St. (2pc) Croix Imperial \$100 w/ fighting butt:  
Contact Rory Wiske 806-0568 (c)

**ITEMS FOR SALE:**

1 dozen G&H magnum shell  
9 ea. Outlaw real photo silhouette goose decoys;  
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