

# Flatland Fly Fishers



W I C H I T A , K A N S A S

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## Presidents Line

It is just about time to say good bye to 2003, which means that the new club officers are starting their new positions. I would like to applaud last year's officers for the great job they did. I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that we appreciate the time they dedicated to the club to continue making it success. Here are the officers for 2004; Ryan Allred (President), Steve Ryan (Vice President), Galen Brown (Membership), Eric Schmidt (Treasurer), Dave Tilson (Conservation), Ken McCloskey (Programs), Neal Hall (Activities), Cecil Maier (Secretary), Leonard Malmstrom (Editor), Songbin Chon (Website), Bill Ethridge (Education).

Let's start off the new year right... fishing! We are going to be having our annual one-fly tournament at the slough January 1st, 2004 starting at 8 AM. We will meet at the Plum shelter. There will be prizes for the fastest 5 fish caught, biggest 5 fish and the biggest fish. There is a \$10 entry fee for the biggest fish, otherwise all you need to fish this tournament is make sure you have a 2004 fishing license and trout stamp. Steve Ryan has offered his slough creek guiding services free of charge. The prizes are an Okuma reel for the biggest fish, a 40% off certificate for a caddis float tube for the fast 5 and the Gary Lafontaine book "Proven Trout Patterns" for the biggest 5. There will be a pot luck lunch after the fishing, so bring a small side dish. For those of you not interested in fishing, or forgot to buy your license ahead of time, don't feel like your left out. Come join the fun. We are also

going to have an old fashion swap meet to buy, sale or trade your extra gear.

Our next meeting will be January the 8th. It will be a very good and educational program on some habitat improvements that are planned for the slough next year. If we all work together we can continue making the slough creek a more interesting and enjoyable fishing spot right here in the city. We will also be starting to sell the raffle tickets for the 4 quarterly prizes. There will be a drawing in March, June, September and December. You can buy raffle tickets throughout the year for each of the prizes until the drawing for that prize has been held. The March drawing will be for a pair of Korker wading boots. June will be for a Renzetti vise. September will be for a Waterworks reel with 8 wt. quad tip line already on it. Then in December it is for a Sage XP 4 wt. 4 piece rod, Merry Christmas 2004 to that lucky winner. Tickets are only a \$1.

Want to remind everyone to mark January 31st on their calendars as a day to spend at the Nature Center. That is when Charlie Reading from Bennett Spring, Missouri will be here to provide some great education into the sport of fly fishing. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Charlie is a very knowledgeable fly fisherman. Here is a quote from a fellow fly fisherman about Charlie, "He's probably more technical than the average person needs but if you're serious about fly fishing he's the guy to talk to."

Ryan Allred

## Monthly Newsletter

The monthly newsletter is now available by email for those members who would rather get their newsletter by computer instead of "snail mail". To get on the email list, simply send an email to [leonardm1@cox.net](mailto:leonardm1@cox.net) with the words "Monthly Newsletter" in the subject line.

Leonard Malmstrom, Editor

## Cutthroat Trout

There are fourteen subspecies of the cutthroat trout, thirteen surviving and one now extinct. These trout get their name from the reddish slashes found under their lower jaw. The colors of these fish range from green to blue to black on their backs and silver to yellowish green to bright red on their sides. They can have black spots on the entire length of their body or just around the tail area. They will often have orange lower fins. Cutthroats are native to the western part of North America, Coastal cutthroat range from the middle of Alaska down to northern California. Cutthroats have been transplanted throughout North America. The fourteen subspecies are the Yellow Fin, Colorado River, Greenback, Coastal, Lahontan, Bonneville, and Alvord Lake basin, Snake River, Yellowstone, Rio Grande, Westslope, Paiute, Humboldt and The Willow/Whitehorse Creek. The Yellow Fin is now extinct. The Green back, Lahontan and the Paiute are on the U.S. endangered species list.

The Federation of Fly Fishers has a conservation program to draw awareness to the value of these native species. The name of this program is called project cuttcatch. Project Cuttcatch encourages fly fishers to collect memories of the different cutthroat subspecies they have caught and released. Those FFF members who successfully catch four subspecies of cutthroat trout are eligible to receive a patch, pin and certificate in recognition of their accomplishment. The complete article about the value of native fish and project Cuttcatch can be viewed on line at, <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Conserve/projects/Cuttcatch/Value.htm>. There are links at the bottom of the page on how to participate in this program.

One way to help in the survival of these trout and all fish is the proper handling and releasing of the fish you catch. This past summer I was fishing on Taneycomo and observed a man catching rainbows almost one after another I was impressed with his ability to catch fish, but disappointed in the way he was releasing his catch. He would pick them up through the gills and remove the fly {which seemed to take forever} and then throw them back in. I saw a couple of these fish floating down stream never to be caught again. Trout are a fragile fish. Proper handling includes the following:

- Use barbless or debarbed hooks - Barbless hooks reduce fish handling time and damage to the fish.
- Reduce fish handling time - Land the fish as quickly as possible and minimize handling. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible.
- Wet your hands before handling fish - Dry hands will remove the protective slime of the fish, causing stress and/or fungal growth.
- Cradle the fish by the belly and hold in front of the tail fin if necessary - Hold fish upside down to immobilize. Do not put your fingers in the gills. Do not squeeze the fish.
- Cut the line if you cannot retrieve flies - If the fish has swallowed the fly, cut your line as close as possible to the hook to prevent damage to internal organs.
- Revive fish before releasing - Hold the fish upright, facing upstream, in moving water or in still water gently rock the fish back and forth until the fish can swim away on its own.

These tips and other helpful and informative articles can be found on our clubs web site.

Thanks

David Tilson, Conservations

Next Meeting January 8th @ 7:00 pm