

My name is Scott Branyan, and I invite you to come drift boat fly-fishing with me on Arkansas' fabulous White River.

### McKenzie Drift Boat Fly Fishing

I've combined the Ozark tradition of a float trip on the world famous White River with the McKenzie drift boat of the Pacific Northwest.

A drift boat has a great deal to offer fly fishers. Its stability, comfort and ability to get anglers to the fish is unmatched at any water level on the tailwaters of the White River.

The best of tradition is important to me. That's why I build my Macs out of exotic African mahogany plywood. Wooden drift boats float higher and have a lower center of gravity. No other boat on the White is as stable, maneuverable, or as beautiful!

### The White River System

The White River tailwaters have earned a reputation as a world-class fishery, having produced world record brown trout to 40-pounds. Three dams and two tributary dams in Arkansas and Missouri make 150 miles of cold-water environment for trout.

Four species are stocked and managed: rainbow, cutthroat, brown, and brook. I primarily guide on the two main Arkansas tailwaters of the White: Beaver and Bull Shoals tailwaters.

Beaver Dam, near Eureka Springs, Arkansas, creates the first cold water habitat for trout in the White River system. **Beaver Tailwater** has proven to be a model fishery.

It was the first fishery in Arkansas subject to special brown trout regulations and is also the site of the first cooperative federal, state, and private trout habitat restoration project in the country.

This tailwater has a quaint character about it. It is my home water and a great fishery for beginners. Beaver tailwater is under a new trout management plan, begun in January of 2006, which has a 13 to 16-inch slot limit and barbless regulations.

The largest stretch of trout water in Arkansas is below Bull Shoals Dam, near Mountain Home, with 92 miles of trout habitat.



**Paula Henley (husband Mark in the background) poses with a trophy brown trout.**

When fly fishers mention the White River, they are often referring to **Bull Shoals Tailwater**. This productive water has virtually everything a fly fisher could want. Shoals and pools provide plenty of cover for trout and different angling opportunities for fly fishers.

Trout in the 16-20 inch range are common in the catch and release areas of which there are four. Fish more easily measured in pounds lurk about in many areas.

The current *world record brown trout* (40 lb., 4 oz.) was taken from the **Little Red River** in 1992. Four years prior a 38 lb., 9 oz. brown was caught in the **Norfolk Tailwater**. Both rivers are tributary tailwaters to the White River. Norfolk Tailwater is a trophy fishery, and I occasionally guide clients on it as well. Crowding is often a problem at low water, so fishing on weekdays is recommended.

While big trout have focused much attention on the river system, there are additional reasons why the White River is a great place to fish. These superb

tailwater fisheries are located in the midst of the Ozark Mountains, a prime scenic attraction of the Mid-South.

Flowering dogwood and redbud trees sprinkle the hills and ravines in spring. Post-oak and hickory forests provide a canopy of green in the summer. An array of autumn browns, reds, and golden yellows transforms the hillsides into pictorial monuments in the fall. Dramatic cliffs and bluffs line many parts of the river.

Wildlife is abundant. Reestablished nesting Bald Eagles and migrating Ospreys are pleasant distractions from fishing. Relatively mild winters make for excellent year-round fishing.

The tailwaters of the White provide the fly fisherman with a wide range of fishing opportunities in a scenic setting.

### Other Water Opportunities

Northern Arkansas and southern Missouri have an abundance of small streams holding native smallmouth and other species of fish. The King's River, outside Eureka Springs, Arkansas offers excellent drift boat fly fishing for smallmouth in the spring and fall of the year. It is a beautiful stream and offers another opportunity for float fishing. Contact me for more info and other options.

### Something about Your Guide

Scott Branyan is a native Arkansan. After graduate school, Scott and his wife Sharon decided to return to the Northwest Arkansas area they love. They have one son.

Scott started fly-fishing in college. He has fished Arkansas trout waters as well as trophy streams in the West and Alaska. He started his guide business in May of 1996, has appeared on TUTV/ESPN as on-camera guide, and has guided clients of all skill levels. His customers have come from more than 40 states (including Alaska).

He is a pioneer in fishing and guiding on the White River using the square-end McKenzie drift boat design. Scott is also a freelance outdoor writer and photographer.

## Something About My Trips

**Trips include:** streamside lunch (full day trips) and soft drinks. Loaner rods/reels and flies available free of charge. **What to bring:** your normal fly tackle, hat, rain jacket, waders/boots (optional, but chest waders are desirable), camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, and license(s).\*

**When is the best time to come?** This is year round fishing. A greater number of fish are stocked in spring and summer. Dry fly action is best late summer and fall. Large caddis hatches occur in March and April, and mayfly hatches in May and June. My busiest months are March-June, September and October. Winter fishing can be exceptional. I suggest weekdays, especially during the summer months. **What rod(s) do I bring?** 4, 5 or 6-weights, 8 to 9-foot rods will cover most situations. **What kind of line?** Floating weight forward or double taper. **I'm just a beginner!** Teaching and instruction is a significant part of what I do. Casting instruction and learning a variety of fly-fishing techniques make my trips more than just a day on the river. Safety and conservation are also emphasized. **What will I catch?** These are put-grow-and-take fisheries. You will catch mostly stocked rainbows with an occasional brown, cutthroat, or brook trout. Typically, we cover 4-8 miles of river in a day, so we "fish the water." But we sometimes "sight fish" to individual fish, which is always exciting. **Can I keep fish?** To minimize the impact to the fishery, trips are catch and release only. I will gladly take photos and measurements if you wish to have a replica of a particular fish made. **What are your rates?**

## \$400 per day, up to 2 anglers

\* Fishing licenses and trout permits may be obtained using your Master Card or Visa from Arkansas Game and Fish by calling 1-800-364-4263 or on-line at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com). In addition to a license, anglers on the White River in Arkansas need a trout permit to fish for trout, regardless of whether they retain any trout in their possession.

My guided trips are fly-fishing, catch and release only. I prefer to guide on stretches of river which are less heavily fished and which provide my clients with a variety of fishing opportunities. It is not unusual to fish dries, nymphs, and streamers in the same day.

The river stages vary greatly on a daily basis. My aim is to provide my customers with the best overall experience on any given day, whether they are beginners or experienced fly anglers.

The Mac gives you the versatility to make the best of the fluctuations of the White River tailwaters so you can safely fish and adjust your methods as the fish adapt to their changing surroundings.

Come see first hand why the White River tailwaters are extraordinary trout fisheries, and join me in melding traditions by discovering the thrill of fly-fishing the White River from a McKenzie drift boat!

Yours for fishing,  
*Scott Branyan*



- Call me at 888-993-5464 to book a trip or inquire for availability of dates.
- Not available for Sunday bookings
- Scott is a member of Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishers, and is a Thomas & Thomas Select Guide.
- Discover, MasterCard, Visa and American Express cards accepted.

# Scott Branyan's Ozark Fly Flinger

## Guided McKenzie Drift Boat Fly Fishing on Arkansas' White River



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