

Monograph

Cancer survivor gets chance of a lifetime to fish

By **BRIAN THOMAS**
Sports Editor

A little over a year ago, Richard Cain took his love for fly-fishing and joined a club called the Green Country Fly-Fishers. Based out of Bartlesville, Okla., the club participates in different charity events throughout the course of the year.

Cain accompanied the group to Kellyville, Okla., to participate in one of those charity events that benefited two organizations. One in particular — Reel Recovery — caught his eye and has now given him the chance of a lifetime.

"Reel Recovery every year has retreats around the United States for men recovering from cancer," said Cain, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2007. "I told one of the guys from my club that I'm a cancer survivor. I've had prostate cancer and am recovering from it. He said I qualified for one of the retreats.

"I got home and filled out the application and sent it in. It was probably three weeks to a month later that I got a phone call from Reel Recovery saying that I had been selected to attend one of their three-day, all-expenses paid fly-fishing trips. I would be there with 13 other men who are going through different stages of cancer or are in recovery. I'm excited about participating in this event and meeting these guys."



(Photo by Rob Morgan)

Richard Cain

Cain was one of 14 individuals selected by Reel Recovery to participate in the Missouri Fly-Fishing Retreat for Men with Cancer. The event will be held from April 11-13 at Rainbow Trout and Game Ranch in Rockbridge, Mo.

According to Reel Recovery's website (www.reelrecovery.org), the retreat is led by professional facilitators and expert fly-fishing instructors. No fishing experience is required to participate in the event.

Founded in 2003, Reel Recovery is a national non-profit organization that holds fly-fishing retreats for the benefit of men who are recovering from various forms of cancer. The purpose of it is to help individuals during their recovery process compete in the sport of fly-fishing while also doing so in a therapeutic

way by bonding with other cancer survivors dealing with similar experiences. Another organization — Casting For Recovery — is for the benefit of women who are recovering from cancer.

"They supply the guide, the lodging and food, but it's also a time of intense conversation with other cancer survivors and cancer victims," Cain said. "When you first discover you have cancer, you almost feel alone. I think getting together with other cancer survivors, especially other men, it gives you a chance to get together and talk about this disease. They say it's going to be intense conversation. It will cover the aspects of having cancer and what it does to you and what it does to your life and your future."