

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 19 Issue 2

October 2005

In this issue:

President's Line	1
Dues	1
October Membership Meeting	2
October Speaker	3
Dirty Work	3
Favorite Fly	4
Falling In	5
Women in the Outdoors	6
Schedule of Upcoming Events	8

The President's Line

by Dick Erickson

At our September members meeting, your board presented a \$13,850 expense budget for NCFE operations for 2005-2006. The budget was unanimously approved. Thanks to the work of our Treasurer, Jim Gavacs, we have the financial records of the last couple years on the computer, and are now able to use our past experience to make reasonable budget forecasts.

In discussion of the budget, it was noted that the board is working to make more of our resources available to support conservation / fishing accessibility projects. Preferably, we would like to use all of the income from our Fly Tying Expo to support our education and conservation efforts. However, at this time most of these proceeds are going to support of very basic club operations. For example, our publications budget (primarily, Taut Line) is \$1700, significantly more than the approximately \$1000 generated by member dues. Our speakers budget is \$2700. While this is educational in nature, it is focused on our members. Events and outings such as our picnic and this year's Christmas event, again serving members, are budgeted at \$900. And, we have other administrative expenses such as supplies. That's a great return on a member's \$10 dues!

This challenges your board to find ways to raise additional revenue for basic operations. One effort is to make our raffles more effective as fund-raisers. We want to do this while making them more attractive to you, our members. We are working to find more donated materials for our regular meeting raffles. And, we have begun a new running raffle featuring some higher value prizes. There will be a limited number of tickets for each of these raffles, and when they are all sold, the winning ticket will be drawn. Please support these raffles as they help keep our operations going.

We also noted in the discussion that as a charter FFF club, we are a recognized 501(c)3 organization. This means that your dues to NCFE and the Federation of Fly Fishers are tax deductible. You can also make tax deductible contributions to NCFE, which may be matched by your employer's matching gifts program.

We are open to any ideas that you may have for raising funds. Please share your ideas with me or any other board member.

Dick Erickson

Dues Are Due

NCFE is now accepting dues for the 2006 calendar year. From September through December members are encouraged to make their \$10 dues payment. This can be done at the check-in desk at our regular meetings or by sending a check to the NCFE mailing address, P.O. Box 312, Painesville, OH 44077.

We remind you that as a Federation of Fly Fishers charter club, all members must maintain their FFF membership. FFF handles this renewal process separately, sending invoices to each member. If you are wondering when your FFF membership is due, look on your Taut Line mailing label. Your FFF renewal date is shown following your name. Or you can ask at the check-in table.



The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc (NCFF) who is solely responsible for its content. The Taut Line is published ten times yearly from September through June, under the direction of the Director of Communications, NCFF. All inquiries should be addressed to: Taut Line Newsletter
 P.O. Box 312
 Painesville, Ohio 44077
 Attn: Dir. Of Communications

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) is a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Charter Club. Its purpose is to promote fly fishing as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing. We are committed to provide education in the best practices and techniques of the sport, including fly tying, fly casting and fish and water conservation. Our members are committed to maintaining a current membership in the FFF



2005-2006 NCFF Board of Directors & Officers

- President:
 Dick Erickson (216) 991-7450
- Past President:
 Doug Crouch (216) 221-2994
- Vice Pres:
 George Shuffert (440) 272-5449
- Treasurer:
 Jim Gavacs (330) 562-7073
- Secretary:
 Michael Skoczen (216) 381-7518
- Communications:
 Joe Valencic (440) 255-8216
- Director:
 Connie Hodge (440) 286-1216
- Director:
 Lenny Jagoda (440) 259-5382
- Director:
 Eric Nakanishi (440) 729-1363
- Director:
 Don Van Buren (440) 635-1165

Clip art courtesy Dave Whitlock,
www.davewhitlock.com.

October Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 5th 2005
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio

Beginner Fly Tying, Favorite Fly
6:30 - 7:45 PM

Guest Speaker
Mike Kaul

Fly Fishing Wyoming
8:00 - 10:00 PM

CLEVELAND'S PREMIER FLY FISHING & FLY TYING HEADQUARTERS


FEATURING:

- ORVIS • BAUER
- SCOTT • ROSS
- SAGE • CHOTA
- SIMMS • UMPQUA
- RIO • FISHPOND
- AND MUCH MORE



5128 Colorado Ave. (Rt.611) Sheffield Village, OH
 20 minutes west of Cleveland - Exit 151 off I-90
 Open 7 Days

LORAIN (440) 934-5345
CLEVELAND (440) 835-0861



The Backpackers Shop®
 EXPERT OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS SINCE 1966

1250 HIGH STREET
 FAIRPORT HARBOR, OHIO 44077

BRUCE & TERRY
 DICKERSON

Grand River Tackle

LET US TACKLE
 ALL YOUR FISHING NEEDS

440-352-7222
grantac@ncweb.com
 FAX 440-352-7901

October's Speaker: Mike Kaul

by James Gavacs

At Octobers meeting we will have a presentation on Fly Fishing Western Wyoming by Mike Kaul. Mike is from Pinedale at the base of the Wind River Mountains, which contains the 'forgotten wilderness' as the Bridger Wilderness is referred to. He has been fly fishing for trout for the past 40 years. He has introduced many people to fly-fishing, is a certified FFF Casting instructor. During fishing season he conducts schools and leads guided trips. He is also active with recreation departments in teaching the art of fly-fishing. Mike writes a monthly column called the "Casting Corner" for the internet newspaper Fishingwyoming.com. Oh! And he has a web site www.flyfishing-wyomingwinds.com.

Mike will be concentrating on rivers such as the Green and New Fork and also Stillwater fishing in some of the mountain lakes. It looks to give us something to look forward to after Steelhead season!

Follow up to September

Which reminds me. After having our steelheading questions answered by Bob Williams in Sept., I thought I would reiterate some of the websites he mentioned to help you locate fish and get some information on flies and techniques. Here they are:

www.steelheadsites.com; www.flyfishusa.com/fisherie; www.screamingreels.net (this is Bob's site and has several links); www.worldwidefishing.com; www.lakeeriesportfishing.com; www.steelheadquarters.com. Bob's email is steelheader1@sbcglobal.net. Also in looking at reports on the various websites, his reports will be from steelheader1.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the October meeting.

It's Dirty Work!

by James Gavacs

Tying flies frequently is dirty work. It produces pieces and parts of feathers, yarn and all sorts of synthetic 'flotsam and jetsam' that sticks to clothing and carpeting and gently wafts throughout your tying area and beyond with the slightest breeze, draft or breath. Another difficulty is the quantity and diversity of fly-tying materials we use. Frequently our organization consists of a garbage bag into which we carefully organize our materials between tying sessions. Unfortunately, our session usually begins in January, when we are shut in for the cold weather and ends just before Christmas, when we are threatened with eviction if we don't 'clean up our act for the holidays! As we clean up we discover a little known biological fact that feathers actually do reproduce without the bird attached, because we now require two or even three garbage bags! Because of this, I used to have to practice my hobby in the garage or furnace room or (if it is not raining and above freezing) at the picnic table out back in the 'north forty'.

In all seriousness I have found several

solutions, which work, for the 'management' and me. I have moved my tying bench into our den. I obtained an old student's desk (generously handed down to me by my children). This provides a nice flat surface for my materials and vise. It also has several drawers to store tools and materials. This was adequate until I needed a five-drawer dresser and two large covered plastic bins. It has proven adequate (at least until the furnace room fills up). The most useful tool for clean up has been a portable handheld vacuum cleaner (like a Dustbuster). I attached the charger-holder to the side of the desk and it does a good job picking up the waste we generate quickly and efficiently. Just one tip. Never empty the vacuum into a wastebasket in the house, because as I said above a slight draft, breath or breeze will randomly redistribute your gathered waste throughout the area.

If you use a desk as a tying bench and it has a shallow center drawer, you might want to keep it empty. It serves as an easy place to sweep waste out of your tying area and also as a shelf for tools and materials

you want to keep handy. I find it especially handy when I am tying multiple flies of the same pattern. By keeping my materials and tools arranged at hand, it really speeds up production. The desk that I use does not have a center drawer. What I did was bought a plastic computer keyboard tray from an office supply store that mounts under the center part of the desk and slides in and out as needed. I actually prefer it to a regular drawer because it does not have a front to it, so I have more convenient access to my tools and materials and a flat rest for my hands.

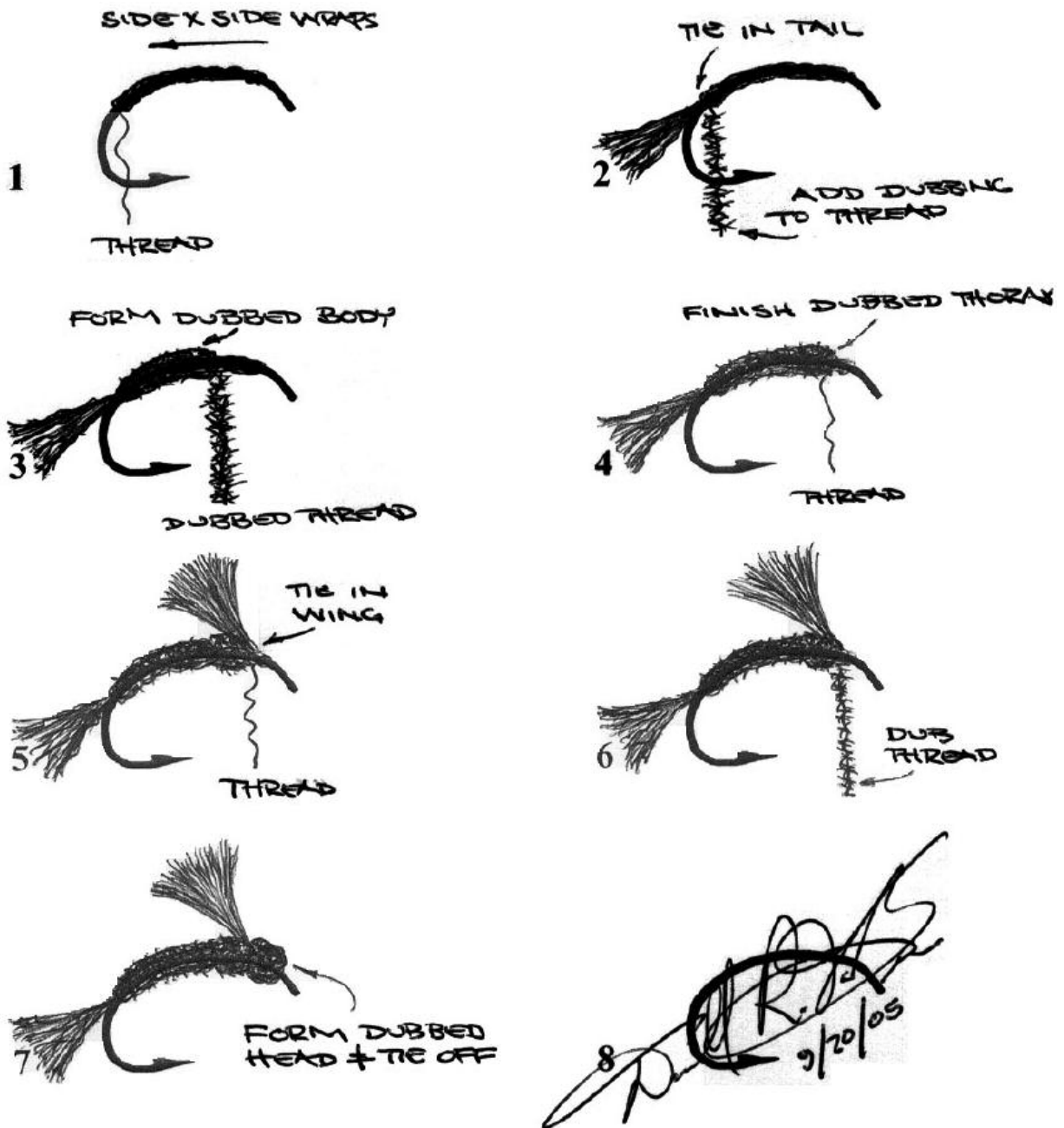
If you do not have a regular bench to tie at or are an infrequent tier another solution for waste is a bag that attaches to the shaft of the vice and is held in place by a frame underneath the tying area to catch waste, dropped tools, hooks and materials.

Fly-tying can indeed be a dirty business, but with a little organization and imagination you can keep the mess to a minimum and even find that material that 'you were sure you had' before you have to run out to get more!

NCFE Favorite Fly

Hi-Vis Emerger (BWO Version) Tied by Mike Skoczen

Hook	TMC 2487 Size 16-20	Thread	Black 6/0
Tail	Brown Antron Yarn	Body	Light Olive Dubbing
Thorax	Light Olive Dubbing	Wing	Hi-Vis Light Dun
Head	Dark Brown Dubbing		



Falling In

Submitted by Daryl Crowley - Member of the West Michigan Hacklers - Courtesy FFF ClubWire

Call me cruel or call me callous but in my humble opinion (and in the opinion of others) there is absolutely nothing funnier than watching someone fall in the water. It has been deftly choreographed to elicit some of the funniest moments in movie history. It is the essence of classic comedy. It's pure slapstick. And nowhere is the opportunity to witness this phenomenon better than among the ranks of fly fishers. Only here, it's not part of a carefully crafted movie script, it's real, unrehearsed, and a whole lot funnier.

Let's be clear about one point up front. It is not funny if someone is hurt. And the humor is lessened greatly if a rod is lost or broken; at least for a while. And it is never funny to push someone in (in most cases). And certainly you never wish it on anyone, at least not those in your party. For the best effect it must happen naturally, and naturally it will from time to time for those of us that choose to spend a great deal of time flirting with disaster wading trout streams. Given these basic guidelines we are free to enjoy one of nature's most profound natural comedic events.

One of the first things my friends and I do when we take a "newbie" trout fishing for the first time is explained to them that if they should fall in we will be laughing. They should not take offense at this, as none is intended. In fact, despite our best efforts and cheek biting it is uncontrollable. Nothing will reach out and grab your funny bone like a sudden exclamation followed by a loud splash and a head bobbing up sucking air. There is short delay as you visually check to see that the victim is unhurt and then it's as if you have just heard the punch line of every funny joke in world at the same time. I have been reduced to tears and the inability to continue fishing. Deep water is not a prerequisite and this is great as most of our trout streams are quite shallow. It even seems to elevate the humor when someone gets completely wet in only a few inches of water. A face down, spread eagle fall on a shallow sandbar, can increase the humor significantly. Let's exam-

ine a few of the classic styles and their subsequent humor rating.

Shipping Water. Shipping water occurs when someone wades a little too deep or is pushed into a pocket or leans over a little too far and water slips over the top of the waders. The funny factor here seems to be directly related to amount of water that makes into the waders as well as the temperature. Shipping water is fairly low on the humor scale and if the wader is experienced they can grit their teeth and not let on that it happened, provided it's not too cold. Back at the car they can just claim that their waders must have sprung a leak. Leaky waders are never funny.

The Partial Fall. This usually occurs when the wader stumbles or when a dead branch used for support suddenly breaks. The end result is usually a wet arm or two and maybe some shipped water. Again the humor scale depends on the style and grace, or lack of grace, displayed by the wader. I think the humor is somewhat subdued by the viewer's subconscious which feels cheated out of the full body emersion.

The Slow Motion Fall. The slow motion fall often occurs when one foot becomes stuck in the muck or sand. As the wader tries to step forward the stuck foot refuses to follow. This puts the wader out of balance with no chance for recovery. The beauty of this fall is that it takes several seconds for the actual fall even though the outcome has already been cast. This usually results in exclamations from the victim that focuses the attention of everyone on the victim before that actual fall. This allows everyone to see the complete fall in detail as the hapless wader slowly topples over. Even though it may only result in a partial fall it allows everyone to completely absorb the event like an instant replay. It bums the image into the mind clearly and makes it easy to replay over and over. It also allows for great detail in the re-telling. This rates very high on the humor scale.

The Full Body Fall. This is the king of comedy. This is a moment that will live forever and much to the chagrin of the poor

victim, it will be told over and over for years to come, as it is just too good to keep to oneself; it has to be shared. And some are so naturally funny that even those that just hear it about after the fact can be sometimes brought to tears and uncontrollable laughter. And the really good ones can be told again and again with almost no loss in the funny factor. Sometimes it's just a straightforward trip. A rock or log with a sense of humor will reach out and grab a leg. This is what rocks and logs live to do. Clay has a tremendous sense of humor. I'm not being anthropomorphic here, this is documented fact! Clay has a habit of pushing on the bottoms of your feet in opposite directions. Clay also is often responsible for the classic and always funny "double take". Since any time someone finds himself or herself completely submerged their immediate reaction is to bolt upright as quickly as possible, as though that will somehow lessen the soaking. But clay is crafty and this is what it hopes for because as soon as the wader is upright it pushes their feet apart once more and down they go again, hence the double take. Double takes can be dangerous. Not for the victim but for his buddies who will find themselves gasping for air between peals of laughter. On more the one occasion the laughter has caused a watcher to loose control and take a dunking themselves. Two wet guys push the humor rating off the scale.

Hat Floating. Floating a hat is an automatic ten on the scale. In order to float the hat off the head of a wader he must take a full body fall, often into deeper water and the floating hat is like icing on a cake. Where a moment ago there was a happy fly fisher there is now just a hat making its way lazily down stream. This of course is quickly followed by the hapless victim springing out of the water like a Polaris submarine, abandoning all attempts at caution as they scramble after the AWOL hat. This could even result in a double take. It also makes the retelling of the event easy;

continued on page 7

Women in the Outdoors Weekend

by: Joe Valencic, Communications Director

Don Van Buren, Connie Hodge and Joe Valencic of the North Coast Fly Fishers (NCCFF) spent the weekend of September 16-18, 2005, teaching fly tying and fly-fishing at the annual gathering of the Ohio Chapter of Women in the Outdoors (WITO). The event was held at FFA Camp Muskingum in Carrollton, Ohio, nestled on the densely wooded shores of Leesville Lake, Ohio's premier Muskie fishery (No muskies were taken on a fly this weekend that we know of).

WITO is dedicated to providing new opportunities to women interested in a variety of outdoors activities, making new friends or having a great time with old ones as they learn to fish, hunt, camp, hike, mountain bike, shoot and take part in many other exciting activities. WITO is an outreach program of the National

Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) (www.ohionwtf.org), a 525,000+ member, grassroots, non-profit conservation organization with members in 50 states and 11 foreign countries. The NWTF's goal is to teach the importance of responsible wildlife management, increase participation in outdoor related activities and to preserve the hunting tradition.

NCCFF's participation was part of our Club Collaboration Program that sends willing Club members out to other organizations to introduce their members to the joys of fly-fishing and fly tying. In April 2005 NCCFF was also invited to put on a one-day program of fly-fishing and fly tying for the Grand River Chapter of WITO in Geauga County.

Friday night was spent performing fly-tying demonstrations for almost three

hours, following a great dinner of various wild game dishes. Many of the event participants watched intently as Don explained each step of the tying process, and then gave the completed fly to the onlookers. Each was thrilled to receive the handmade treasure, as many of them perform crafts that require attention to detail to produce a fine finished product, and therefore appreciate this art form.

On Saturday two classes of fly-casting and fly-fishing were taught. Each class of six women received instruction about all the parts of the fly rod and reel, and then each was required to string-up their rod and attach a foam spider fly to their tippet using the improved clinch knot taught to them. Then Don, Connie and Joe each took two women to the water and taught them the basic casting technique and the roll cast for the balance of the class. The fish were not real cooperative during the heat of the day, but one lady managed to catch and land a nice bluegill while her spider fly rested over a submerged weed bed. Even though nobody was injured, many of them were "hooked" on fly fishing following this experience.

All the students were invited to watch another tying demonstration on Saturday evening following dinner. Many of them showed up to watch, and when we learned that not all of them were signed up for the fly tying class the following morning, Don graciously taught a special beginner class for six women, with Connie and Joe helping around the table. It was a lot of fun and personally rewarding to know that we had



Connie Hodge (r) watches as Don Van Buren (c) demonstrates tying on a fly for WITO students.

the opportunity to introduce six more women to fly tying.

It was tougher to get up Sunday morning following a long day of outdoor activity the day before, but 8:30 found ten eager students ready to learn fly tying. The two-hour class ran over by 30 minutes because everyone wanted to keep tying, but at the end of the class everyone was thrilled with the five flies that they tied, and amazed at the improvement they made from the first fly they tied. All the student were given a business card so they could contact us for an Ohio FFF Club location near to them to



Connie Hodge assists WITO fly tying students at annual state outing.

continue their education in fly tying and fly fishing.

A special thanks goes out to the Backpacker's Shoppe in Avon, OH for their donation of fly tying materials to NCCF that makes our in-house and outreach educational programs possible. We also want to thank Mustad Hooks for their generous donation of fly tying hooks to the FFF Fly Fishing Discovery Center in Livingston, Montana. FFF distributes these hooks to FFF Clubs for the express purpose of fly tying education, and we received a nice variety of hooks when we went to the FFF Conclave this year. This weekend 26 women were the beneficiaries of these generous donors who support our efforts, and we hope to be invited to participate in future WITO events in Ohio.

WITO Contact Info

Renee O'Brokta, Regional Coordinator

Phone: (216) 362-1072

Email: outdoorwoman@worldnet.att.net

Falling In

continued from page 5

"Joe floated his hat" quickly and completely describes the event even those that missed the event can quickly conjure the beauty and humor. All that remains is filling in the details that brought poor Joe to his fate.

I could fill a large book with examples that I have seen or displays that I have been unfortunate enough to put on for my buddies. We could all recount endless falling in stories. They are burned into our memories because they are so funny. I hardest I ever laughed in my life (honest truth) was when a buddy was pitched out the boat by big wave. I laughed so hard it hurt. I couldn't get my breath. After a long while I finally got the laughter to subside and the pain in my side went away. A full half-hour after I had recovered I pictured him again going over the side of the boat and once again I was laughing to the point of pain.

We have all done it and if you're a steelhead fisherman, you have even done it in the winter too. Usually when the temperature is below freezing, the humor is delayed until the victim is dry and out of danger, but it is only a temporary impediment, as the true humor will burst to consciousness once the danger is past.

If you have never fallen in, you're not trout fishing correctly. It's a right of passage. And just remember when your thrust you head up above the surface sucking air and you hear the barrage of laughter; they are not laughing with you they are laughing at you, but they can't help it. They are not to blame, it's human nature. And your turn will come and go many times over the years, both as the entertainer and the entertained. I have no doubt that the ancient Egyptians laughed when some poor hapless fellow fell off his reed boat into the Nile, and it was certainly a joke thousands of years old by then. Later when you're back at the car, in dry clothes and warm once again, if you think about it just right you will find it funny too. If you don't, you're taking this sport way too seriously.



www.madriveroutfitters.com
Secure Online Shopping!
Free Shipping on orders
over \$25.00!

Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

October 5	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Mike Kaul	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
October 12	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
November 2	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Al Johnson	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
November 9	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

North Coast Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 312
Painesville, Ohio 44077



www.ncff.net