

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 18 Issue 4

December 2004

In this issue:

Fly Fishing Northern
Canada, Part 21

December Holiday
Dinner & Membership
Meeting1

December's Speaker
Jack Gartside3

NCFF & FFF Membership
Renewal Notice3

Favorite Fly4

Fly Tier's Corner5

Book Reviews6

Revised Favorite
Fly Tiers7

Schedule of
Upcoming Events8

North Coast Fly Fishers

Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 1, 2004, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Croatian Lodge Party Center, 34900 Lake Shore Blvd., Eastlake

Featured fly tier and guest speaker: **Jack Gartside**

Favorite Fly Tying Program lead by Robert Prescott
for all who wish to tie that evening

Plus a Holiday Raffle, NCFF 5th Annual Favorite Fly Plate

Raffle (members only), 50/50 and our popular Fly Exchange.

**Dinner will be served at 6p.m. – Sorry, its too late to RSVP!
However, you are welcome to attend the speaker portion
of our meeting. Jack should start his talk at about 8:15.**

Fly Fishing Northern Canada – Part 2 – The Stalker

by Mike Skoczen, NCFF

It was late afternoon as I stood on the bow of the boat looking for a fishy spot as Mark slowly paddled us down the shoreline. Mark and I had spent the last few hours taking turns fishing and paddling and my arms were getting sore from both. Our last trip through this particular stretch of shoreline was pleasantly successful and we were hoping to continue that success after deciding to switch tactics a bit. It was time to go top water. Before I had a chance to cast, Mark put the paddle down, grabbed his bait caster and launched a buzzbait at the shore. It landed with loud splash and Mark began to retrieve it at high speed. The

lure raced across the surface of the water leaving a wake behind as if it was propelled by a tiny motor. In no time at all, the water around the lure exploded in a flurry of teeth and gills. "Fish On!" I got down from my perch and helped Mark to land and release a nice Northern Pike. Mark got back to paddling and after a few minutes of accusing Mark of stealing my fish (the fact that I would not have been able to make a cast at it made no difference to me) I got back up on the bow and began my search again.

continued on page 2



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 100% Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). 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



2004-2005 NCFF Board of Directors & Officers

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

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

Fly Fishing Northern Canada – Part 2 – The Stalker

continued from page 1

We were getting close to a slot that shot deep back into the weed bed that looked like the perfect place for my next cast. The slot was a few feet wide with submerged weeds visible just beneath the surface of the water and a fair amount of reeds shooting up through the surface. I slowly began to feed line into the air as I false cast over open water. One more false cast, a double haul and my line shot out over the water in the general vicinity of where I wanted it to go. It landed off target (it was the wind) but I judged it to still be in play.

The deer hair mouse landed with a small plop and I noticed a large swirl in the water about 10 feet away. Adrenaline rushed to my brain as I began to slowly swim the mouse back towards the boat. A wake appeared behind the mouse, inching closer as I continued my retrieve. I was being followed! I had retrieved about half of the cast when the wake approached and then disappeared right behind the fly. Worried that my stalker had lost interest, I sped up my retrieve from a leisurely swim to a panic stricken thrashing. Right on cue the water exploded around the mouse, I saw

the flash of the teeth, felt the weight on the line and set the hook. “Fish On!”

The fish was not large but it was all that my 7 weight rod and I could do to keep it out of the weeds; we had already lost more than a few fish that way. After a short struggle we were able to get the fish into the boat, remove the hook, snap a photo or two and release it back into the lake. The stalker was a Northern Pike around 27” long and while not a trophy fish, it was one of the biggest Pike that I had ever caught and for that I was very happy. I made one more cast “to get my line back on the reel” and brought it back in uneventfully this time.

It was time to turn over the bow of the ship to Mark so he could fly fish again while I paddled him around. We fished this way for a few more hours and repeated this scenario more than a dozen times. Whether the rod was in my hand or in Mark’s I still felt the same rush of excitement with every take. I don’t think I’ll ever grow tired of taking fish on top water flies.

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

December Speaker: Jack Gartside

Jack Gartside got his first fly tying lesson in 1956 from Ted Williams, the great Boston Red Sox outfielder. He's been tying and fishing ever since – in both fresh water and salt – accumulating an extraordinary range of fishing experience in the US and throughout the world.

Jack was one of the first fly tiers profiled in Sports Illustrated (Oct. 12, 1982). Since then, he has been profiled in Fly Rod & Reel, Fly Fisherman Magazine, Fly Fishing in Salt Waters, VillmarksLiv (Norwegian), La Peche en Mer (French), Tight Loop (Japanese), and other national and international publications. He appeared on the cover of Fly Fishing in Salt Waters (the famous photo of Jack and his inflatable giraffe) and Tight Loop (a Japanese Fly Fishing Magazine, December, 1998).

Books

Jack is the author of *Striper Flies*, the first book written specifically on this subject. Another book, *Striper Strategies*, is described by reviewer Steve Raymond as: “one of the most remarkable striper-fishing manuals to see the light of day,” and by Tom Meade as “Blessed with bright writing, keen observations, and the most concise advice a striper hunter can find.” His latest books are *Scratching the Surface* - which deals with surface and (slightly) subsurface flies and fly fishing; and *The Fly fisherman's Guide to Boston Harbor*. Both have been exceptionally well received by reviewers and readers. “Wow,” says *On the Water Magazine*, about the Guide to Boston Harbor, “easily the best guidebook to be found anywhere.”

Other books to Jack's credit include *Fly Patterns for the Adventurous Tier*, (volumes I and II), *Flies for the 21st Century*, and the *Soft Hackle Streamer*. He has also authored *Secret Flies and More Secret Flies*, two instructional pamphlets featuring designs utilizing a special tying material, Gartside's Secret Stuff (or GSS).

Fly Tying Info

Jack has been tying flies for over forty years and is considered to be among the most talented, innovative, and prolifically inventive tiers of the modern era. Among his best-known original patterns are the Sparrow, the Soft Hackle Streamer, the Gartside Pheasant Hopper, and the Gartside Gurgler. His unusual designs have been featured in Eric Leiser's *Book of Fly Patterns*, Judith Dunham's *The Art of the Trout Fly*, Lefty Kreh's *Salt Water Fly Patterns*, Dick Stewart's *Salt Water Flies*, and Dick Brown's *Fly fishing for Bonefish*.

For the past twenty-five years he has conducted fly tying seminars and fly fishing programs in the US, England, France, Norway, New Zealand, and Japan.

NCFE Membership Renewal Notice

Dues can be paid at our NCFE membership desk if you come to the Members meeting, or may be mailed to:

North Coast Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 312

Painesville, Ohio 44077

Attn: Membership Director

Maintaining your membership with NCFE and FFF helps keep our club moving forward and our voice for our sport of Fly Fishing strong.



FFF Membership Renewal Notice

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) provides us with additional membership information to insure our 100% Club status is maintained. FFF membership numbers and renewal dates will be added to the membership roster used to check in members at our meetings.

Remember, every member of NCFE must maintain a current FFF membership to belong to our club.

As a reminder, FFF sends all members a Renewal Invoice to their home prior to their membership anniversary date. It is requested that you pay your renewal directly to FFF to insure continuity of membership and to be sure you don't miss an issue of the Flyfisher. If you send your renewal payment to NCFE, your renewal may take 4-8 weeks before it reaches FFF. This is because we only pay bills once a month, and the request for payment must go through our Membership Director before a check can be issued at the next Board Meeting. Also, NCFE must pay an additional fee per check as well as paying for postage and envelopes. This cost is paid from everyone's \$10 membership dues, and is not the best use of our funds. Please renew directly to FFF.

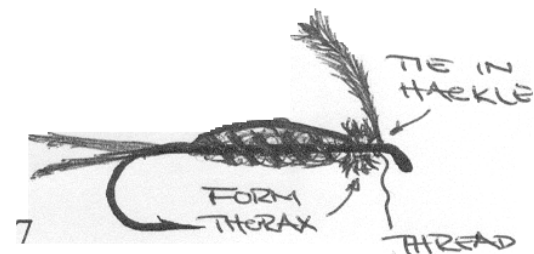
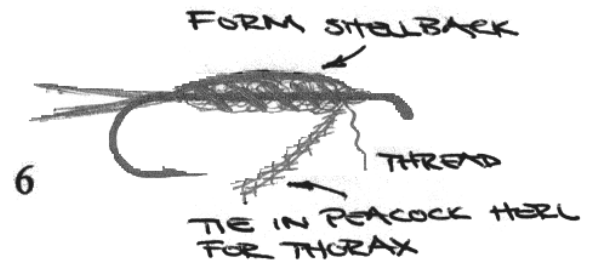
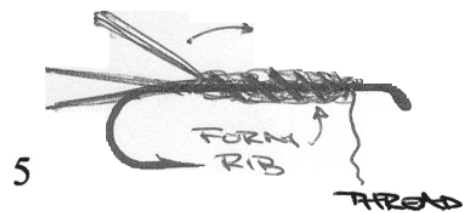
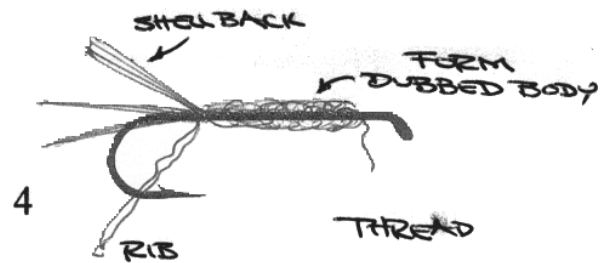
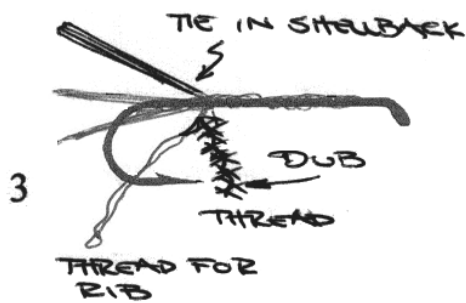
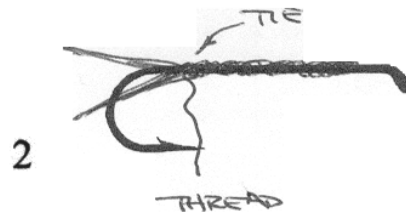
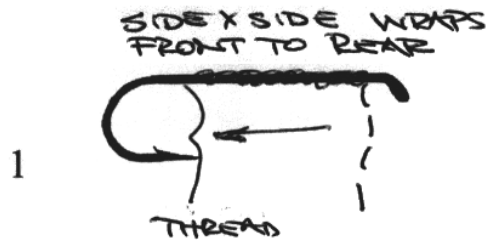
If you have any questions, someone at the membership table can help you.

NCFE Favorite Fly

Becc's Stone Tied by Adam Pawlowski

Hook Mustad 9174 4xl Size 10
 Tail Brown Goose Biots
 Shellback Dark Mottled Turkey Tail
 Thorax Peacock Herl
 Head Finish Nymph Style

Thread Brown 6/0
 Rib Brown Working Thread
 Body Sulfur Yellow Dubbing
 Collar Brown Partridge



The Fly Tier's Corner

Teaching Fly Tying – Third in a series

by Don Van Buren

In our first column we talked about the concerns and fears a new fly tier may have and suggested how to approach and resolve those concerns and fears to make fly tying, above all else, enjoyable. Our second column addressed the basic tools required to begin fly tying and we also touched on hooks.

An overriding theme throughout the first two columns, that will continue, was to address the needs of the student. Remember this is not about the instructor! I also set two rules to follow to minimize your errors and eliminate unnecessary expense and they were:

Rule #1 “Go slowly! Investigate and talk to experienced fly tiers”.

Rule #2 “Buy materials to match the pattern recipe your tying”.

When we begin to teach more complex patterns and to expose the student to additional materials such as feathers, synthetics, hair and fur for fly tying we introduce the beginner tier to a whole new world. Up to this point we identified the basic tools and hooks and kept the decision making to a low stress level.

As your skills improve you will be exposed to more and more materials. Here is where a good instructor/teacher prove their worth. Growing up on a dairy farm we seemed to always have chickens, usually white or brown feathered. Squirrel tails were plentiful and there was always a patch of deer hair available. Imagine my surprise when I got serious about fly tying, and realizing all of the good material I passed up, or didn't know how to use, while growing up

on the farm. Back then there was no Internet, networking or fly tying classes available. It was all pretty innocent and basic. Today a new tier has a wealth of information and data available, and this leads to making many decisions on material purchases that could be costly if not monitored. This is where the instructor can provide guidance and recommendations. I recommend that all new fly tiers acquire a copy of Bob Marriott's fly fishing catalog “Annual Guide to Fly Fishing”. This catalog is written like a codebook and covers anything and everything about fly-fishing and fly tying. A wealth of knowledge about fly tying tools, hooks and materials can be acquired by reading this catalog.

Lets start with feathers. When buying feathers, especially necks, it is very important that you keep in mind both rules before investing in Feathers. Careless and unnecessary purchases can be very costly. Keeping your Feather inventory manageable will be a continuous and ongoing task. The list, below, is a recommended starting point when you begin acquiring feathers. Begin by buying a Mid Grade of Saddle, Neck. Today, packs of feathers for specific patterns are available and are a nice way to start acquiring feathers.

Color	Saddle	Neck
1-Grizzly	Yes*	Yes
2-Brown	Yes	Yes*
3-Black	Yes	Yes*
4-Med Dun	Yes*	Yes

**Minimum Recommended*

Necks are primarily used for small flies, i.e., Dry flies while saddles are typically used for all flies size 16 and larger. Generally it's best

to start with a lower grade neck or saddle such as a grade #2, before investing in a Grade Supreme or #1. Below is a chart showing, typically, when to use a Neck or Saddle based on hook size.

Hook Size:

24, 22, 20, & 18	16, 14, 12, etc.
Use a neck	Use a Saddle

You will come across terms like saddle patch, strung saddle, Chinese, Indian and imported when referring to feathers. These items are usually less expensive and may not be the correct feather you should use, because of quality, feather count, size, etc. Look at these items carefully, there is a place in fly tying for these items, but be careful. The world of synthetic materials is huge, and continues to grow with many choices available. The best approach to this material is first to address basic colors. Typically you can start with Olive, Black, and Brown. Size is the next area to address, and no hard and fast rule is available, generally choose the smallest size with the appropriate length for the pattern your tying.

The availability of many different hairs and furs is amazing. The best advice is general rule #2 “Buy materials to match the pattern recipe your tying.” In this way you will build up your stocks of Hair and Fur in a consistent and reasonable manner without error or potential waste. If you follow the two general rules when buying materials, your chance for error and waste should be dramatically reduced.

Next month we will talk about advancing our student's fly tying skills.

Book Reviews

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang – courtesy FFF ClubWire

Plank Cooking

By Scott & Tiffany Haugen

152 pages, spiral softbound, illustrated, color - Suggested price \$19.95

Plank cooking salmon is a regionally popular in the Pacific Northwest. However, there are many other foods that can be enhanced by the smoke flavor imparted to food cooked on hardwood planks. In addition, this method of cooking lends itself to foods favored in all regions of the country. This well written and illustrated cook book introduces the adventurous chef to interesting and flavorful recipes for plank cooking foods such as seafood, fish, beef, pork, poultry, wild game, as well as appetizers, vegetables and desserts. These recipes and ideas will add a new dimension to anyone's cooking as well as providing a great topic of conversation at parties and family gatherings. And the method of plank cooking is simple and easy to learn.

The book starts with an introduction to plank cooking, a chapter on getting started, and one on plank preparation before introducing the reader to the recipes themselves. Everything you need to know to be successful is in these first chapters. The reader learns about acquiring the planks, preparing them for use on outdoor grills and indoor ovens, and preparing the food you wish to cook. These chapters are easy to read, clear, and to the point.

The recipes are each presented on a single page that includes the recipe, preparation and cooking instructions, preferred plank wood, recipe variations and a photograph of the finished dish. The book is spiral bound within a softbound cover so it opens flat for use but shelves like a normally

bound book. The book is well designed, edited, and printed making it easy to read, easy to use, and fancy enough to give as a gift.

This is a wonderful addition to the cooking library of anyone who enjoys eating as well as fish and hunting. Now if you will excuse me I have some pheasant with cilantro and yogurt to sit down too.

Salmon Camp

By Livingston Parsons Jr.

88 pages, softbound, illustrated, color and B&W - Suggested price \$14.95

This small volume is a fun read about one of the traditions of the pursuit of Atlantic salmon with a fly rod. The Salmon Camp has played an important part of fly-fishing for Atlantic salmon all over the world. Now we have a well written, easy to read history of one of these private salmon camps that have contributed so much to the lore and legend of the King of fish. The Boland Brook Salmon Camp is also the story of a remarkable woman who lived a life from the end of the 19th Century through most of the 20th Century, a life that would be considered unique even today. If you enjoy reading about the history of fly-fishing and the people who have given us the traditions we honor today you will find this an interesting and fun book. Well written, and documented with photographs covering the whole sixty-five year history of the Camp, this is a wonderful story for a rainy or snowy evening in front of a fireplace when there is no fishing to be had. This is definitely one of the best fishing stories to be printed in a long time. The fact that it is a true story makes it all the more incredible.

Spey Casting

By Simon Gawesworth

286 pages, hardbound, illustrated, color and B&W - Suggested price \$49.95

In fly-fishing there are a few seminal works that stand as benchmarks and cornerstones of the sport. I believe this book is one of those works. The author has decades of spey casting experience as a caster, fly fisher, and as an instructor. He has taken this wealth of practical as well as intellectual experience about spey casting and written a comprehensive course of spey casts and spey casting.

The book comprises twenty-six chapters that provide a complete course in spey casting and spey casting gear. The first chapter explains what spey casting is. This is followed by chapters directed to, Getting Used to the Rod, Grip and Stance, the Overhead Cast, and the Basic Principles, of all spey casting. Following these first five chapters, there are eight chapters teaching the individual spey casts. These chapters are "the Roll Cast", "the Switch Cast", "Crude, Traditional, and Modern Spey Casting", "the Single Spey", "the Double Spey", "the Snake Roll", the Circle Spey and Snap T, "the Devon Switch". Each of the individual spey cast chapters have a section teaching the cast with color photos and where appropriate, diagrams, a section explaining why and when to use the particular cast as well as the proper grip and what group of spey casts the particular cast belongs too, and finishing with a section detailing the five most common errors in making the cast and solutions to correct these problems. For a spey caster having problems this last section of each chapter is worth more than the price of the whole book. The text is very well written

and very easy to read and understand. The photograph sequences are excellent in bringing the text to life and visually reinforcing the written word. The line drawings of the rod movements are most helpful to assist the caster in visualizing what he is trying to accomplish with his casting movements. Unfortunately, it seems the diagrams on pages 105, and 110-111 are printed in reverse of the photographs of the same strokes. A bit disconcerting until you realize the problem. With careful attention to these chapters, and practice of what is being taught in them, the fly fisherman desiring to learn to spey cast, or to improve his spey casting, will be well on the way to achieving his goal.

Following the chapters on the spey casts are chapters covering advanced spey casting, single-handed spey casts, underhand casting, casting with left or right hand, shooting line, weird casts, mending,

fishing with a two-handed rod, safety, rods, reels, lines, and leaders. The chapters on equipment are especially good for people who have not yet purchased equipment as they will provide you with a good understanding of what questions to ask, and what features to look for before you spend your money. The casting chapters provide a whole spectrum of advanced techniques to allow the two-handed rod to function efficiently under most actual fishing conditions. The chapter on weird casts is a bit of good fun and will also provide the spey caster with ideas about modifying spey casts to perform special functions.

Quite simply, this is the finest book on the subject of spey casting to date. It is the benchmark and will continue to be the cornerstone of spey casting instructional literature for decades to come. This is a must have volume for any spey caster's library.

Upcoming Favorite Fly Tiers

December 1, 2004
Robert Prescott

January 5, 2005
Michael Crouch

February 2, 2005
George Shuffert

March 2, 2005
Frank Frisina

April 6, 2005
Holly Freedman

May 4, 2005
Michael Klonowski



*3rd Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo*TM

January 15th, 2005

Brought to you by the North Coast Fly Fishers

Check our web site for updates – www.expo2005.ncff.net

Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

December 1, 2004	Holiday Dinner & Membership Meeting Favorite Fly, Raffles, Dinner and Guest Speaker: Jack Gartside	Croatian Lodge Party Center, Eastlake 6:00 - 10:00 PM
December 8, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
January 5, 2005	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Charlie Chlysta	Lake Farm Parks 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
January 12, 2005	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
January 15, 2005	3rd Annual Fly Tying Expo	Croatian Lodge Party Center, Eastlake
February 2, 2005	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Bear Andrews	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
February 9, 2005	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

www.ncff.net

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

