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*North Coast Fly Fishers Presents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual*

# Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo™

**Saturday, January 15, 2005, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Croatian Lodge Party Center,**

**34900 Lake Shore Blvd., Eastlake, Ohio**

***New & larger location with 50% more vendor tables and a huge parking lot!***

- **Vendors from 4 states and Canada offering material and gear for fly tying and fly fishing. There is something for everyone.**
- **World class tiers including: Chris Helm, Jeff “ Bear” Andrews, Dennis Potter, Bill Skilton, Dick Walle, Kim Boal, Julie Nielsen, Wayne Samson, Ron Dilbone, Steve May and more! See page 6 for more on the tiers.**
- **30+ premier tiers from Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan representing 13 Federation of Fly Fishers Clubs.**
- **Educational programs and free beginner fly tying classes included in admission price.**
- **Bargain table with materials and equipment.**
- **50/50 raffles all day plus food and beverages available.**

For more details and directions, visit the Expo Web Site: [www.expo2005.ncff.net](http://www.expo2005.ncff.net)  
Admission Price: \$10 Adults, \$6 Seniors and Kids 12-17, Under 12 admitted free!

For more information contact: Joe Valencic  
Email: [expo2005@ncff](mailto:expo2005@ncff) • Phone: 440.255.8216



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



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Clip art courtesy Dave Whitlock,  
[www.davewhitlock.com](http://www.davewhitlock.com).

## January Membership Meeting

### Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2005

Lake Farm Parks  
8800 Chardon Rd.  
Kirtland, Ohio

**Beginner Fly Tying  
& Favorite Fly**  
6:30 - 7:45 PM

**Guest Speaker**  
Charlie Chlysta  
8:00 - 10:00 PM

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## NCFF Membership Renewal Notice

*by Dick Erickson, Membership Director, NCFF*

Are you up to date?

Recently there have been several changes in processing our memberships. For example, NCFF no longer processes FFF membership renewals. You are now billed by FFF, and renewals are sent to them directly. This seems to be going well, as we have only a few members who are behind on their FFF dues. As we are a 100% FFF club, you must be current with both FFF and NCFF dues to maintain your membership in NCFF.

2005 NCFF dues have been collected since September, and many have renewed. There have been reminders at our meetings and in the Taut Line that dues should be paid before the new year. But, there are a significant number who have not yet renewed.

We are now doing a general clean-up of our membership roster. In January, anyone who is not current with both NCFF and FFF dues will be removed from our mailing list. This means that unless you are up to date by the January members meeting, this will be the last Taut Line you will receive. Member communications through the Taut Line is the major expense paid by club dues. You can send your \$10 individual NCFF membership fee to North Coast Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 312, Painesville, OH 44077, or pay at the January meeting.

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## Expo 2005 Bargain Table

*by Joe Valencic - NCFF*

Once again we would like to ask all members to clean out their tying benches and donate their unused, underused, never used or partial packages of fly tying material for the bargain table at Expo 2004. We are also be interested in any fly rods, reels and other fly fishing related items that are still serviceable to be donated as well.

Last year we sold everything that members donated, and many of the purchasers thanked us for having good bargains for them to buy. As you well know, not everyone can afford to buy new materials and equipment, so this can be looked upon as helping those less fortunate than us.

Please bring your donated item to the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and place them in the box at the registration table.

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## NCFF Flies for Sale

NCFF is looking for more than a few good fly tiers. We are running short of flies to sell at the upcoming Expo. For every six flies you tie, you get a free empty fly box. We will take your flies and put them in a box, label them and sell them at the Expo in January and the Conclave in February. We are looking for trout, steelhead, bass and panfish flies.

So dust off your vise or thin out your own stockpiles and give your flies to Connie Hodge at the membership table at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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## A Reason to Never Go Fishing Alone

*by Duane Berger – courtesy FFF ClubWire*

It was time for me to leave Alaska after six weeks of warm weather. My son Mark and I had many fine days fishing the streams that feed Kenai Lake and in the high country near Glen Allen. So, it was only natural, when we had a beautiful day, that we decided to get in one last day of fishing to catch small trout and a few big Dollies.

It was September 7<sup>th</sup>, the day before my scheduled departure and we drove out to fish in a small lake near Portage Glacier. It was a beautiful morning and we were just cruising along in a lazy "Fly Fishing Mode". We parked, suited up, and waded out to small island in the middle of the (very shallow) lake. I left Mark, and walked along the island's shore looking for a good spot to fish. After a while, I heard him calling to get my attention ... I thought he caught a fish. However, when I got back to where I had left him, he was sitting in the water at the edge of this very shallow lake with a frustrated look on his face. He said "I'm hurt, I'm hurt really bad".

I helped him to sit up on the bank and had him leave his leg in the cold water while I hiked about a quarter mile back to his truck to get something to use to make a splint. I found a length of quarter inch poly rope and two Alder branches that could be fashioned into a splint. When I got back to him, we wrapped his boot and leg into a solid position. We then hobbled and crawled the quarter mile across the shallow water and thick Alder trees, back to the truck.

We still had no idea how badly he was hurt. After a careful trip to Anchorage, (about one hour to crawl out to the truck, and another hour and half drive to the hospital), we got to the emergency room. The x-rays they took showed a shattered ankle, broken in three places with shards of bone all over the place. The nurses in emergency were great. They complimented us on the fine job of splinting ...then they said we must have been watching too much wilderness survival on TV! The next day, a very sharp orthopedic surgeon installed two side plates and pinned his ankle back together.

Thanks to our working together to hold the damage to a minimum and that excellent hospital staff ... all went well.

Mark is home now with his leg up for six weeks, and still wondering what happened. A simple walk, in about six inches of water on level surface with a mud base. Nothing stupid! He went down so fast, he still can not believe it. Mark is a strong six footer who weights 170 pounds, and walks at least a mile or two every day. Not the type of guy you would expect to break a bone in such a simple fall. So much for a warm September day of quiet fishing. Needless to say, we didn't even catch a fish.

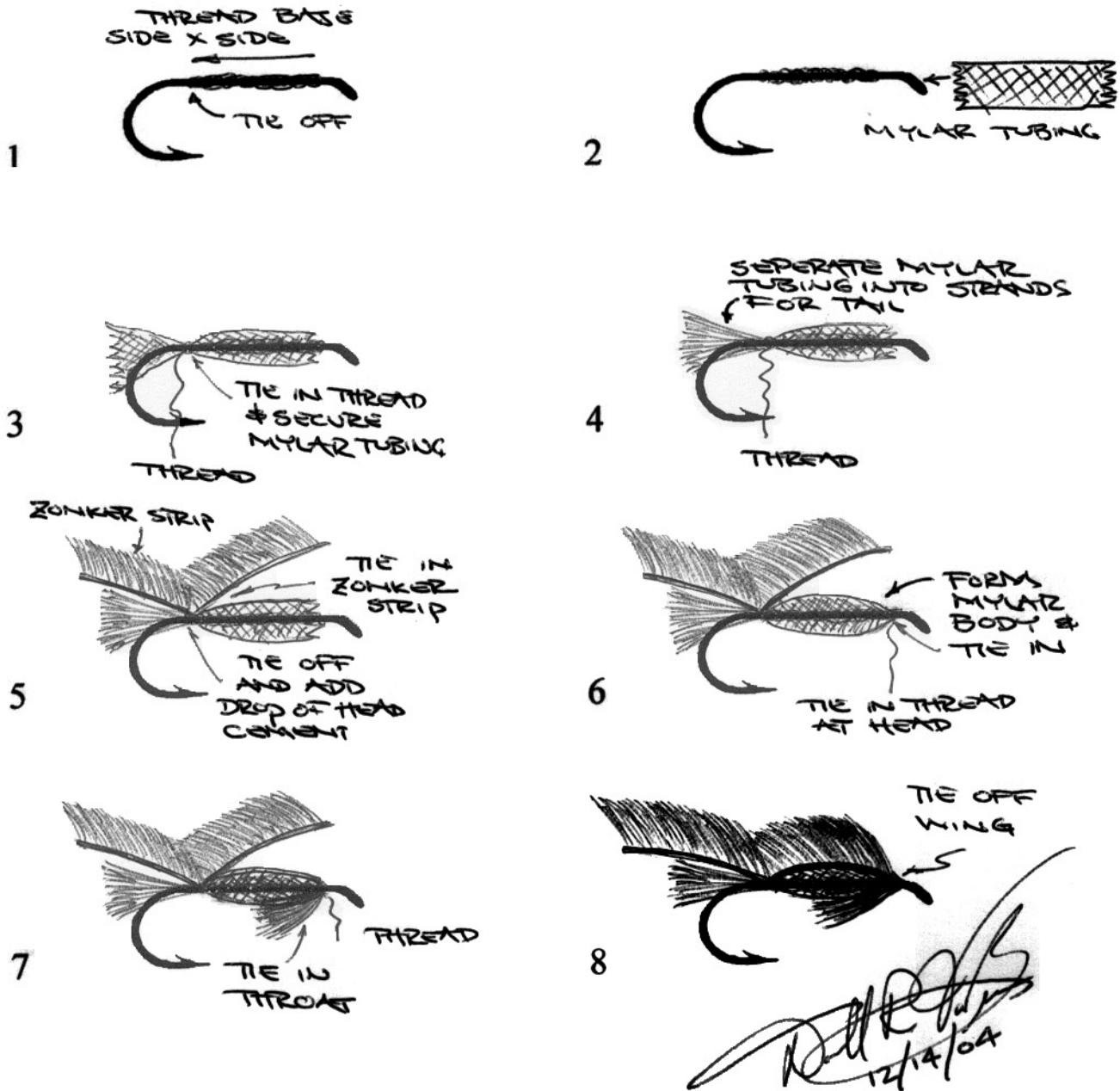
I don't know what would have happened to Mark if I hadn't been with him. As a result, I have a basic observation to pass along. When you plan to go "far back" into a quiet place, away from people, please remember that an injury or other emergency can happen to anyone, at any time ... and you may not be able to get out under your own power ... NEVER GO FISHING ALONE!

# NCFF Favorite Fly

## Black Mylar Zonker Tied by Bob Prescott

<b>Hook</b>	<b>Mustad 9671 Size 6</b>	<b>Thread</b>	<b>Black 6/0</b>
<b>Tail</b>	<b>Mylar Strands from Mylar Body Tubing</b>	<b>Wing Case</b>	<b>Black Zonker Rabbit Strip</b>
<b>Body</b>	<b>Pearl Mylar Tubing</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Finish Streamer Fly Style</b>
<b>Throat</b>	<b>Red or Yellow Marabou</b>		

Body Weight is optional-Aluminum Foil or Lead Tape



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# The Fly Tier's Corner

## Teaching Fly Tying – Fourth and final in a series

by Don Van Buren - NCFF

In our earlier columns we talked about the concerns and fears a new fly tier may have, the basic tools required to begin fly tying, we also touched on hooks and we talked about material procurement. Addressing material procurement I stressed two general rules;

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

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

Earlier I had mentioned the two truisms; “not all teachers/instructors are good fly tiers, not all fly tiers are good teachers/instructors. If you get a combination of both, you are very fortunate” and “It is not about the teacher/instructor, it is about the student”. The important point for Fly Tying Instructors is to address the students needs while teaching the art of Fly Tying.

I once had a Golf Pro/Instructor explain to me that the first five lessons would be lessons and after that, everything would be coaching. It made a lot of sense to me at the time and still holds true today. After a student completes a series of “Basic Fly Tying” lessons, this can vary depending on the instructor, typically six to eight would be more than enough to cover the fundamentals of Fly Tying, he/she is ready to advance and expand their knowledge base and this is where coaching comes into play.

A student with deep pockets can continue to take lessons on just about any specific or category of Fly Patterns but I do not believe this is necessarily the best way to advance your Tying skills. I will admit it is one of the more costly ways to do so.

If the Student is satisfied with the instructor after the learning the basics, he/she

may want to move forward with different tying techniques such as spinning deer hair, dubbing loops and brushes, tying parachute wings, etc., or different pattern categories such as Dry Flies, Attractors, Steelhead or Classic Salmon Flies, etc. There are many categories of fly patterns and many tying techniques and tricks to learn for the fly tier.

My suggestion at this point in your training is that you do the following; Join a fly-fishing and fly tying club. Subscribe to a fly tying magazine or two. Purchase a good book on fly tying. Surf the Internet. Develop a network of fly fishermen and fly tiers to tap into.

Joining a fly-fishing and fly tying club is one of the most logical steps to take if you want to improve your fly-fishing and tying skills. This is where a huge amount of knowledge can be found and most fly fishermen are not as snobbish as the public perception may be. If you do run into a fly fishing snob, move on, their loss! Most fly fishermen are more than willing to share their knowledge and skills, but not their “Honey Holes”, so don't ask.

By subscribing to a fly fishing magazine you can read about new products, techniques and learn new patterns. Two of my favorites are “Fly Tier” and “American Angler”.

Purchasing a good book on fly tying is a bit scary since there are so many out there. I would suggest two books, both favorites of mine. The first is a book on hooks, which is “Hooks for the Fly” by William E. Schmidt and is a must to fully understand the world of hooks for fly tying. The second is a how to type book “The Fly Tier's Bench side Ref-

erence to Techniques and Dressing Styles” by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer. This book is a bit pricey but worth every penny! It is a wealth of information and easy to navigate and read.

If you have a computer, surf the Internet! It is amazing how much information is available to the person who chooses to spend some computer time. Pick a Search Engine and type in a subject and boom! You have instant leads to information regarding that subject.

Lastly develop a network of fly fishermen and fly tiers through your club, your fly shop, your fishing trips and by visiting fly-fishing and fly tying shows, such as the 3rd Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo January 15, 2005.

There is a practical and sensible path to follow in improving you fly tying skills, your instructor should be able to direct you if not assist you. Always remember Rule #1 “Go slowly! Investigate and talk to experienced fly tiers”. This ultimately will be the most rewarding path and you will be surprised at how many friends you make along the way.

I would like to leave you with a thought! “Remember, sharing knowledge is free and a gift”.

If each of us would teach just one person to tie flies and that student did the same image how we could promote our sport, and what if we were to teach just one more, a total of two? Along the way someone who you shared your knowledge with may refer to you as a friend, teacher or mentor.

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## Expo 2005 Featured Fly Tiers

Listed Alphabetically

### Jeff "Bear" Andrews

Michigan native Jeff "Bear" Andrews has been fly fishing and tying flies for 38 years. He was the recipient of the "Buz" Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a fly tier by the Federation of Fly Fishers. He was only the second tier from the Midwest to ever win the award.

From 1977-1982 he ran Bear's Fly Shop in Grand Ledge, Michigan. He has tied commercially for 20 years, producing as many as 2000 dozen (24,000) flies a year.

Annually, Bear travels throughout the United States and Europe sharing his tying skills through demonstrations and classes. he has taught thousands of people to tie flies. For the past eight years Bear has been doing Fly Tying Marathons to raise money for the Federation of Fly Fishers conservation projects. To date he has raised over \$60,000 for conservation. Bears flies are sought after by both collectors and fly fishers. Many of Bear's patterns are available through Umpqua Feather Merchants dealers.

### Glen Blackwood

Glen Blackwood is the host of "Fly Fishing with Glen Blackwood" and owner of the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company in Rockport, Michigan. An experienced fresh and salt water angler, Glen is a member of the SCOTT Fly Rod Pro Staff as well as of the Ross Reel Dealer Advisory Board.

### Kim Boal

Kim is a nursing manager who lives in Western Pennsylvania and is a member of FFF & TU. An extremely accomplished tier of dry flies, Kim has tied at FFF shows across the country as well as at major trade shows. Kim has also tied at Fly Fair 2002 in Holland and British Fly Fair 2004 in the UK.

### Charlie Chlysta

Charlie is a retired biology and environmental science teacher from Ohio, and a frequent speaker at NCFE meetings. He has been fly fishing and tying flies for over 40 years, and is extremely knowledgeable about tying and fishing streamers. He ties flies commercially for Gates Au Sable Lodge in Michigan, and spends time on streams all over the country fly fishing for trout and bass. Most of his fishing time is spent on the Au Sable River system in Michigan. Charlie specializes in nighttime fly patterns.

### Ron Dilbone

Hailing from Archbold, Ohio (west of Toledo), Ron is one of Ohio's best kept secrets in fly tying. An FFF Member for more than 20 years (and a lifelong fly tier), Ron ties at FFF local, regional and national events, and mesmerizes his audiences with his creativity and finesse. When not tying custom flies, Ron teaches fly tying and fly casting from his home.

### Jerry Drake

Jerry is President of Three Rivers Fly Fishers in Ft. Wayne Indiana. He began fly-fishing on his 14th birthday (just before the telephone was invented), and began seriously tying in 1966 while stationed in Duluth, Minnesota in the US Air Force. He spends most of his bench time tying Atlantic Salmon patterns, and is well known for his hand made Bamboo Fly Rods. When you cast one of his bamboo rods, you'll want to have one for your very own.

### Chris Helm

Creator and manufacturer of the Brassie® Hair Packer, Chris Helm is considered the guru of deer hair and a master spinner with over 30 years of tying experience. He is the owner of Whitetail Fly Tying Supplies in Toledo, Ohio, and has written many articles for American Angler, Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Journal, Fly Tier, Fly Fishing and Fly

Tying Journal British Edition. His expertise has taken him to Europe numerous times to teach workshops and do tying demonstrations.

Chris currently has six instructional videos in circulation, and his business caters to every type of tier at all skill levels. Chris Helm is regarded by most to be perhaps the finest deer hair fly tier in the world and nothing short of an ambassador to the sport and hobby at the very least. As a result of his fly-tying and for years of teaching others about it all over the world, he has been honored with the prestigious 2004 Buz Buszek Memorial Award of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

### Steve May

Steve May works with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in the Urban Fisheries Program. Steve also guides on the world-famous Grand River tailwater brown trout fishery and for steelhead on several Ontario Rivers. Steve ties flies commercially and his patterns can be found at Grand River Troutfitters in Fergus, Ontario. Some of his patterns have been featured in popular fly fishing magazines and web sites. Steve has developed several innovative patterns for picky brown trout, musky, steelhead and smallmouth bass. These patterns are generally innovative in their design and use of materials to produce flies that meet demanding fishing conditions and fish.

### Julie Nielsen

Julie lives in Rockford, MI and is on the Board of Directors for The Flygirls of Michigan. She has been tying flies for about seven years. As a student and personal friend of Dennis Potter, Julie has created a number of new fly patterns that are part of her commercial tying business, Tier II Flies. A woodworker turned fly tier, Julie often shares her tying skills with kids and gives presentations on fly tying and fly fishing to clubs.

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### **Dennis Potter**

Dennis Potter, Michigan's "Rivergod," has been a fly tying fanatic since he spun his first "bug" over 25 years ago. Every one of the hundreds of dozens of flies he ties through Riverhouse Fly Company, reflect his commitment to maintain quality, simplicity, proportion and above all, durability. He has taught and shared his skills as a fly tying instructor for over 20 years. He now specializes in giving group classes and seminars using studio-quality, macro video equipment. He stresses technique and durability over speed and numbers. Having fished extensively throughout the Midwest, West and Alaska, Dennis has the distinction of having caught and released all five species of Pacific Salmon on flies. On his beloved Au Sable in northern Michigan, Dennis seeks out the challenge of fishing the little fly hatches: midges, Tricos and Tiny Olives (the Tiny Black and the Tiny Green Curse) which drive some anglers to take up the game of golf, but pushes Dennis to the edge of "angling ecstasy". Dennis will be tying some of his new patterns that Umpqua has recently added to their line.

### **Brad Reynolds**

Brad is from Lansing, MI and has been tying for nine years with a special interest in dry flies and streamers. He was awarded 3rd place at a National TU convention for Atlantic Salmon competition, hair-wing division. Brad teaches fly tying in the Lansing area, and is the Vice President for Conservation and a member of the Executive Board of the Great Lakes Council (GLC).

### **Wayne G. Samson**

Wayne has been fly fishing and tying for nearly ten years. Originally a warm water fisherman he started by experimenting with bass bugs using deer hair. Soon he met Chris Helm of Toledo, Ohio- considered by most to be perhaps the finest deer

hair tier anywhere, and he quickly developed a friendship that still exists today. Chris has rounded out Wayne's tying, especially deer hair, and considers Wayne to be one of his better students. Wayne's specialty remains deer hair bugs and hair work in general. However, he ties epoxy flies, saltwater flies, classic Atlantic salmon flies and most all trout flies as well.

Wayne has entered the Mustad Scandinavian International Fly Tying Competition two times and has returned home two Gold Medals. Most notably was a head-to-head competition against the master and teacher Chris Helm in 1998.

### **Bill Skilton**

Bill lives in Boiling Springs, PA and started tying flies at about age 5 under the direction of his older brother, Tony. After high school he work at the Yellow Breeches Fly Shop in Boiling Springs while tying flies commercially as well as providing guide services. He eventually managed the Yellow Breeches Fly Shop as well as Letort, Ltd, a wholesale/retail mail order business.

He has tied commercially for the Orvis Company, Inc. in Manchester, VT and started by own mail order fly and fly tying material business, Bill Skilton's USA-FLIES, in 1990. The fly patterns that he developed have been pictured in the Orvis catalog for the past 13 years. His fly patterns have also appeared in several national fly-fishing magazines as well as several fly tying books.

Bill expanded Bill Skilton's USA-FLIES to the full time business that it is today. He specializes in developing innovative and time saving fly tying techniques, especially those involving synthetic materials. He is continually developing, adapting and customizing fly tying materials and patterns, many of which can be seen in his book, MY FLY PATTERNS, MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES, which was published in 2002.

The Orvis Company, Inc, Umpqua Feather Merchants, as well as several dozen retail shops across the nation have sold his fly tying materials, and he has expanded internationally to include Japan, England, Scotland, Africa, Germany and Singapore.

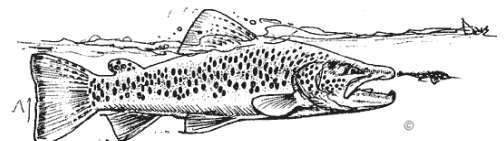
### **Dick Walle**

Dick is a tier from Toledo, Ohio who specializes in "soft hackle" flies. He is well known throughout the Midwest and does numerous presentations for fly-fishing clubs and shops. Dick is also on the Great Lakes Council Board of Directors.

### **Glenn Weisner**

Glenn is the owner of Glenn River Fly Co. Ltd. in Toledo, Ohio, and has been tying flies since a seventh grade science fair project. He is a tireless fisherman and often can be found fishing for trout on the cold streams of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. Glenn has been a personal friend of Chris Helm for twenty years, and he attributes most of his tying capabilities to the information he has "stolen" from Chris' warehouse of knowledge and experience

Glenn has created or improved several patterns he finds invaluable for small stream trout fishing and enjoys tying most all trout flies, especially Terrestrials. He finished seventh in the Open Division in the 2001 Mustad Scandinavian International Fly Tying Competition and fourth in the Dry Fly Division in the 2002 Mustad Scandinavian International Fly Tying Competition. Glenn is a good classroom and riverbank teacher with solid communication skills and patience. He enjoys working with beginners and children.



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## Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

January 5, 2005	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Charlie Chlysta	<b>Lake Farm Parks</b> 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
January 12, 2005	Board Meeting	<b>Penitentiary Glen</b> 7:00 - 9:00 PM
January 15, 2005	3rd Annual Fly Tying Expo	<b>Croatian Lodge Party Center, Eastlake</b>
February 2, 2005	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Bear Andrews	<b>Penitentiary Glen</b> 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
February 9, 2005	Board Meeting	<b>Penitentiary Glen</b> 7:00 - 9:00 PM
February 19, 2005	Fly Fishing Conclave	<b>Penitentiary Glen</b> 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
March 2, 2005	Membership Meeting/Fly Tying Marathon Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly No Guest Speaker	<b>Penitentiary Glen</b> 6:30 - 10:00 PM

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[www.ncff.net](http://www.ncff.net)

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