

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 18 Issue 6

February 2005

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18th Annual Fly Fishing Conclave

James E. Gavacs, Conclave Co-chair – NCFF

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) and Lake Metroparks present the 18th Annual Fly Fishing Conclave to be held on Saturday, February 19 at Penitentiary Glen Reservation, located at 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road in Kirtland, Ohio. The doors will open at 9:00 a.m. and the Conclave will run until 4:00 p.m. This is a family oriented activity and a great opportunity for parents and kids to learn together about the hobbies of fly-fishing, fly tying, and the tremendous fisheries available to everyone in Northeast Ohio. It's another way to meet nature on its best terms, to release the pressures of the hectic workday world, and get the kids away from the television.

The following seminars are included with the price of admission:

- 9:15 AM Beginning Fly Fishing
- 10:45 AM Beginning Fly Tying
- 1:00 PM PA Trout Fishing
- 2:30 PM Beginning Fly Tying

The Conclave will also feature several local fly fishing tackle dealers and guides who can advise you on the right equipment for your level of experience. Continuous advanced fly tying demonstrations by NCFF members will show you step-by-step how to tie the most effective flies used in our area for trout, steelhead, bass and pan fish. The Ohio Division of Wildlife will be on hand to answer questions about what the

State of Ohio is doing to improve and maintain the waters we fish in, and to explain about various conservation programs that our tax dollars are used for. An outdoor fly-casting clinic, will show you the proper methods of casting a fly rod, and let you try it for yourself (weather permitting).

Our featured fly tier will be Ron Dilbone from northwestern Ohio. Ron started teaching himself to tie flies in 1959. His first fly was a moth, which he describes as a chenille body with deer hair. In 1995 he retired as a biology teacher and became a student of Chris Helms (world renown deer hair tier). In 2000 he was invited to England to participate in tying exposition. Here in Ohio Ron fishes mostly for Bluegill and Bass. His specialty is foam flies and semi realistic nymphs.

Hot dogs, snacks and beverages will be available throughout the day, and raffle tickets will be available with proceeds benefiting the educational efforts of NCFF. Four drawings will be held throughout the day for prizes donated by members and local fly tackle dealers.

Price of admission is \$6 per person or \$12 per family. For more information and to pre-register, call (440) 358-7275 or 1-800-669-9226. Bring the entire family to participate in the events, and to enjoy the surroundings of Lake Metropark's Penitentiary Glen Reservation.



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:
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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.

February Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, February 2nd 2005
 Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
 Kirtland, Ohio*

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

*Guest Speaker
 Jeff "Bear" Andrews
 8:00 - 10:00 PM*

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February Speaker: 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. Bear's flies are sought after by both collectors and fly fishers. Many of Bear's patterns are available through Umpqua Feather Merchants dealers.

EXPO 2005 Another Success!

by Joe Valencic – NCFE

What a fantastic show! It took a couple of days to get my voice back after announcing all day and talking nonstop to so many people, but it was worth the inconvenience. Everyone I talked to raved about the new facility and the great parking, and I already have two checks from vendors for the 2006 Expo. If you were not able to be there you missed an absolutely great day that was filled with educational opportunities, fantastic tiers and more than a few great deals.

While I receive a lot of credit for assembling the show each year, the real heroes are the volunteers who make everything look so seamless. This year there were 29 NCFE members that performed a variety of tasks from Registration to fly tying. Everyone's participation

and pleasant smiles made all of our guests feel welcome. The names are too many to list, but you know who you are and I thank you for sharing your time to make the show a smashing success.

I do want to give a special thanks to Don Van Buren for taking care of recruiting all of our volunteers. He has a knack for selecting just the right person for each of the areas that require attention. Don was also there for me as a sounding board and supporter with all the additional work of moving to a new venue, and there were scores of late night phone conversations and e-mail exchanges to finalize all the details. Thanks, Don, without you I don't know what I would have done.

I was also privileged to have my wife, Linda, daughter, Kelly and son David all

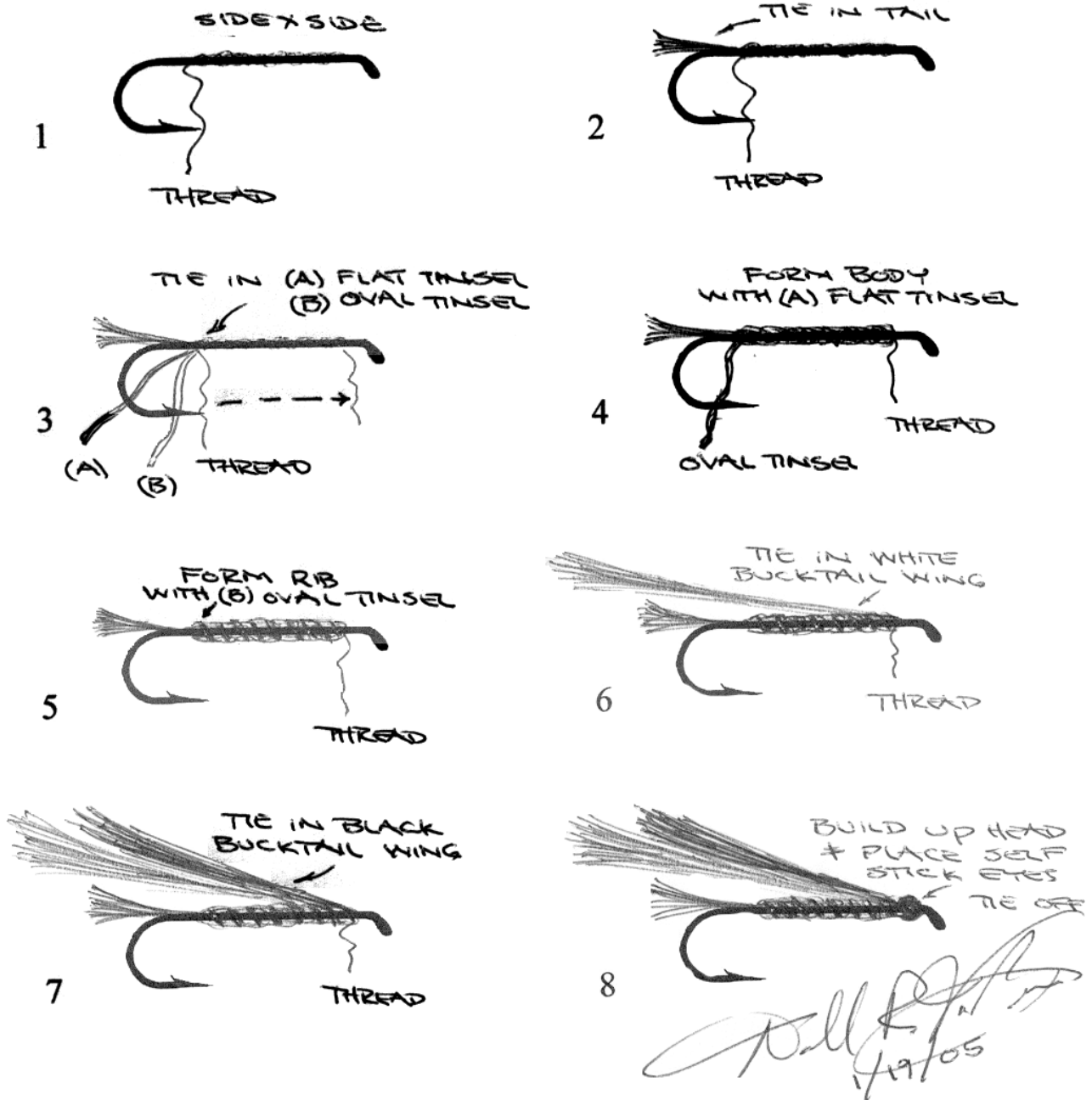
volunteering their time at Expo. Linda worked the Registration Table, Kelly sold 50/50 raffle tickets and David took over 250 digital pictures of all the vendors, tiers and attendees. I did not ask any of them to help, but they each said they wanted to help wherever needed. After all, they watched all the hours I spent on the phone and computer for almost a year, and I think they just wanted to be there to support all that effort. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Linda for her patience with me throughout the year as I planned the event and went through some frustrating times as well. That's what love is all about. Mark your calendars for January 14, 2006 for the next Expo.



NCFE Favorite Fly

Black Nose Dace Tied by Mike Crouch

Hook	Mustad 9672 Size 6	Thread	Black 6/0
Tail	Red Floss	Body	Flat Silver Tinsel
Rib	Oval Silver Tinsel		
Wing	White Bucktail followed by Black Bucktail		
Head	Finish Streamer Fly Style with thread buildup to accommodate eyes		
Eyes	Self Stick or equivalent		



The Fly Tier's Corner

Acts of kindness on the stream

by Don Van Buren

We have all heard the horror stories of elbow-to-elbow fishing, crowding someone out of their fishing hole (or trying to) and the list can go on and on. These types of stories seem to make the headlines and cast a dark cloud over all fishermen, when, in fact, it's just a few that give the rest a bad name. In contrast to these few bad apples, I would like to share with you several friendly "Acts of Kindness" that I have been witness to or part of.

On a particular Salmon float trip, our success could only be described as slightly successful. We rounded a bend and our guide recognized a friend of his (not another guide) fishing a hole that was simply loaded with Salmon. We stopped to greet him, introductions were exchanged and a nice conversation ensued.

During the conversation our guide's friend asked how we were doing. After our guide said that we had not done well to this point, his friend called to his three guests and said, "let's move on and let these visitors enjoy our fine fishing hole. We've had plenty of fun here for today". Needless to say we were astonished that anyone would give up such a "Honey Hole" to total strangers. We thanked him as they were moving out, but there was still one last "Act of Kindness" sent our way. We were all left with several proven fly patterns for the fishing hole we had just been given.

Another time I was fishing for Salmon alone on a very small and tranquil stream, when I suddenly realized I had just used my last split shot. This situation simply rendered my ability to fish the run next to useless. As I was reeling in and get-

ting ready to head back to our cabin, I heard a voice say, "Hello, how is it going"? I replied fine, the fishing was very good, the weather was outstanding and the quiet and peaceful nature of the location was beyond description. I then mentioned that I would be leaving and he should give the run a try.

He asked, "Why are you leaving?" Feeling a bit foolish, I mentioned my oversight of leaving my split shot on the table back at the cabin. Without hesitation he approached me while reaching into his vest and pulling out a split shot container and saying "we can't have a beautiful day spoiled because of no split shot," and gave me a small supply to get me through the rest of the day. I offered him some flies in exchange, but he refused saying he ties a lot, and he moved on down stream.

I have always tried to repay the "Acts of Kindness" that I have been a benefactor of, by being a contributor of "Acts of Kindness". I had the opportunity to do so later in the week.

Two friends and I were fishing a hole with an almost unbelievable amount of Salmon stacked in it. It was one of those days when hardly anyone in our group did not have a fish on. We were enjoying the action when I noticed a lone fisherman watching the three of us fish, thinking that sometimes it's just as enjoyable watching others catch fish as it is catching fish yourself.

My friends and I turned to greet the stranger, and almost in unison we said why don't you join us and fish the run for a while. Naturally the stranger, who no longer was a stranger after our introductions, was a bit surprised at our offer.

The rest of the day was spent with the four of us taking turns sitting out while three actively fished. This turned out to be one of my banner days Salmon fishing, not to mention gaining a new friend.

I relate one last "Act of Kindness." My fishing partner and I were moving along a bank to find a spot that we could fish for Salmon, when we happened onto two youngsters approximately 17-18 and 12-14 years of age fishing to several Salmon. It was obvious that they did not have the first clue of how to go about it. My friend suggested we offer to help them out and they gladly accepted our offer. I have talked at times (sometimes preached) about teaching, that it is something each of can do without cost. The rewards are great not only for the student, but also the instructor.

Soon our instructions began to produce results and we had two very happy young men excited about their newfound knowledge. A bonus arrived...their dad. He was not a fly fisherman and only took time off of work to bring his boys to the river and then to stick around while they tried to catch Salmon on a Fly Rod; his own personal "Act of Kindness" for his sons. Our bonus was a very happy father who enjoyed watching the excitement of his two sons. Before we moved on we left them with a substantial supply of flies. Next time you're fishing, look for one of those "Acts of Kindness." It will brighten your day and reinforce your faith in fishermen.

Fly Fishing Northern Canada Part 3: Opportunist

by Mike Skoczen

I was seated in the middle of the canoe as we motored upstream looking for signs of a good holding spot. We had fished downstream the day before without a tremendous amount of luck yet we were determined to figure these fish out. My eyes scanned the water near the riverbank for anything that would indicate a likely holding spot.

After trying a few "fishy" looking spots we arrived at one of the areas that we did have a little luck the night before. This was also one of the few spots on the river that allowed the three of us to get out of the canoe and spread out a little. Some other day I'll tell you about how much of a pain it is for three fly-fishermen to fish from a two seat canoe and why we were doing it in the first place. We jumped out of the canoe, tied it off and spread out to make our first casts.

Mark and Rick were the first to land fish. This little section of river looked even more promising than I thought it would be. I also was able to land a fish or two, all on subsurface flies. After catching a few fish I was ready to try something a little different and I had just the fly. I took out a deer hair mouse that I had tied up for pike fishing and knotted it onto the end of my leader. I figured that a mouse had to fall into this river on occasion.

I made my first cast and I immediately began swimming the mouse through the current when it hit the water. Nothing! No matter, it is bad luck to catch a fish with the first cast after tying on a new fly (so I tell myself every time it happens). Let's try a second cast. Nothing! Now a third cast. Nothing! A pattern was forming.

After a few more uneventful casts my confidence was starting to get shaken as my "friends" told me that I was just wasting time and to get out of their way if I wasn't going to seriously fish the water in front of me. I was about to listen to them when I made one more cast (the "one more cast" theory).

I saw a dark shape rocket off the riverbed towards the mouse as I was swimming it through the current. The fish hit the mouse so hard that it came out of the water as it took the fly. "Fish On!" I set the hook and the fight was on. These wild fish were very strong. I fought the fish a few seconds longer than I had to as I informed Mark and Rick that I knew all along the mouse would work. After it became obvious to me that they were not interested in helping me land the fish, I stopped gloating and brought the fish to hand. A beautiful 18 inch long Brook Trout had taken the mouse. It was the first to fall for the deer hair mouse but it definitely wasn't the last.

After landing the fish I decided to celebrate. I broke out my flask filled with Scotch (The Glenlivet – 12 year old for those keeping score) and one of the Cuban cigars we bought for the trip (they're legal in Canada!). What a way to celebrate success.

Upcoming Fly Fishing Shows for 2005

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show™

Saturday, February 12, 2005

Receptions Conference Center, Fairfield, OH

Details & directions coming in November at:

www.buckeyeflyfishers.com

Contact: Mike Bryant

(513) 697-9576 or mbryant@email.com



18th Annual Fly Fishing Conclave

Sponsored by the North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFE) and Lake Metroparks

Saturday, February 19

See article on front for more info.



28th Annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Saturday & Sunday, March 12-13, 2005

Macomb Community College

Sports and Expo Center

Details & directions on the Expo website at:

www.mffc.org

Contact: Kevin Lipp

(734) 837-1100 or mffcexpo@mffc.org



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Polarized Sunglasses Explained

by Bob Wisner – From the San Diego Flyfishers Newsletter, courtesy FFF ClubWire

Outdoors, light, the radiant energy from the sun, stimulates the retinas of our eyes. Our brains translate the visual sensations of light brought to it by the optical nerve. Two kinds of light, ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR), can't be detected by the human eye but are present in large quantities in the light spectrum. Both can damage our retinas (eyes) unless a proper filtering lens is used. Also, there is a shorter-wave blue light which the human eye focuses imperfectly. It causes "blueblur" which in time can damage the retina. The effects of blue light are intensified by haze, fog, rain and snow.

Proper sunglasses should improve vision in a wide variety of light conditions, as well as protect from UV and IR rays, glare, and blue light. Polarized lenses block glare and help us follow a tiny dry fly down a rifle through hundreds of wavelets reflecting sunlight back at us. A good polarizing screen in our sunglasses help us see that tiny fly.

What is a polarizing screen? The polarizing screen is a special film encased (sandwiched) between layers of optical glass or plastic lenses. Before sandwiching, this film is stretched and dipped in an iodine solution. As the film stretches, microscopic ridges within the film elongate, allowing them to absorb iodine in a series of very closely spaced ridges, making them "polarized." The lines are something like the very narrow banded and closely spaced Venetian blinds.

Trouble occurs when cheap plastic lenses have open spots where the ridges didn't hang together during stretching and sandwiching. The better, harder, plastics and optical glass don't. Glass, with the sandwiched film, is the

best and most durable, but hard plastics now dominate the market. Much of it is a carbonate. CR-39 provides lenses with up to 99% effectiveness in blocking UV and IR rays; they're often advertised as 100% effective. Cheap plastics offer only slightly more than 50%. The good stuff can cost to \$100-plus, but you can pay a lot more for fishing gear, and even more for travel and lodging. Your trip could be all but ruined if you couldn't see fish or fly due to cheapies.

Polarized sun glasses that you might use for fly fishing come in a variety of tints. Tints filter out light wavelengths that may be undesirable or generally reduce the intensity of light in very bright settings. It should be apparent from the following discussion of tints that no single pair of sunglasses are adequate for all your fishing needs. Available tints include:

YELLOW/AMBER is a very high contrast tint with considerable color shift. As such it changes the colors your eyes see by a considerable degree. It filters the most blue light and increases contrast and is thus an excellent choice for sight-fishing in overcast, flat or low-light situations in fresh water.

MEDIUM/DARK GRAY reduces the maximum amount of visible light and is the best choice for sensitive eyes and extremely bright fishing settings. Gray allows for full and true color transmission and therefore all colors are reduced to the same degree. Saltwater fishing offshore might be such a situation.

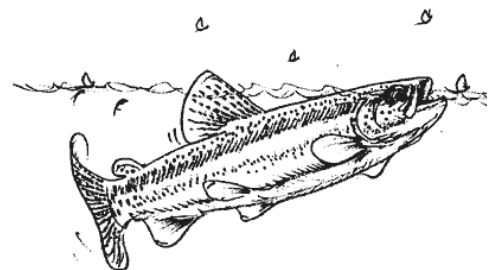
LIGHT BROWN offers the greatest amount of visible light transmission, allowing for the glare-reduction and protection of polarization in very low light and

making it an ideal tint for early morning, late evening or any low light condition. This is a favorite among anglers who fish evening hatches and in the winter. Light brown is also very effective on saltwater flats at sunset.

MEDIUM BROWN is a good choice for an all-around tint for fresh and salt water fly fishing. Medium brown improves contrast while retaining most colors, except unwanted blue light.

VERMILLION OR COPPER tints heighten visual acuity, increase contrast, enhance colors, and are extremely soothing to the eye and comfortable to wear over long periods of time. Ideal, all around, average light tints for both fresh and salt water.

In high-quality glass lenses, the tint is contained in the film and doesn't change during prescription grinding. Plastic lenses are dipped into a hot dye and the pigment is then absorbed into the plastic. In time, UV rays can bleach and fade tints. In the case of prescription plastic lenses, the prescription adjustments are done first, then the lens is dipped in the dye, to eliminate any variation in the tint. Happy choosing to you.



Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

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
February 19, 2005	Fly Fishing Conclave	Penitentiary Glen 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
March 2, 2005	Membership Meeting/Fly Tying Marathon Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly No Guest Speaker	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 10:00 PM
March 9, 2005	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
April 6, 2005	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Kim Boal	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
April 13, 2005	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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