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Becoming a Charter Club

by Doug Crouch, President, NCFE

The topic was raised at recent Board meetings about the option for NCFE to change its 100% FFF Club status to Charter Club status. Because of the significant potential cost savings to NCFE, a committee was convened to review the benefits of this change and provide the Board with their findings. Here's what has been determined:

1. NCFE would be covered by FFF's 501(c)(3) Blanket Exemption, retroactively to our filing as a Non-Profit Corporation. This is done at no cost to NCFE. If NCFE chooses to remain a 100% FFF Club, we will be required to submit a "Letter of Recognition" to substantiate our tax-exempt charitable status (this has never been done, and must be done to remain a non-profit). A user fee of \$500 must accompany this filing. We were in the process of applying for this letter when the Charter Club option was presented to the Board, and this represents a way to avoid this major expense.
2. NCFE will retain its current Bylaws with the additional language added by FFF to denote the organization as a Charter Club. The complete list of additions and changes to the Bylaws is listed at the end of this article.
3. An annual Organization Data Sheet still must be filed with FFF, but Charter Clubs do not pay the annual fee of \$50 that we have paid for many years.
4. Charter Clubs have their income added to the FFF's annual income and FFF files the IRS Form 990 Tax Return at no cost to the Charter Clubs. All that is required is submission of an annual Financial Statement. If we remain a 100% FFF Club, we are required to submit an annual Form 990 Tax Return, and this will require retaining a CPA or Tax Attorney to

make this filing, as we lack these free services in our membership or on the Board.

5. Charter Clubs and 100% Clubs both require members to maintain active membership in FFF, so our members will not see a change to their personal membership status.
6. NCFE would still maintain its autonomy and 100% control over its finances. FFF cannot attach any of our funds for any reason, regardless of a club's status within the organization.

In summary, we save \$500 on an IRS filing fee, retain our Bylaws (with the listed additions and changes below), save a \$50 annual filing fee, have our taxes done each year by FFF at no cost to us and maintain our autonomy over all of our finances and affairs. Add to this that Jim Schramm, President of GLC & Legal Counsel to FFF, will provide all legal services for the change at no charge. To be quite frank, the review committee and the Board could not find a downside to changing our status from 100% to a Charter Club, especially with the ability to avoid costs that we thought were unavoidable.

If you do not have a copy of our Bylaws to compare the following changes, they are available for download and printing from our web site. Here are the changes and additions required to convert to a Charter Club:

Article I, Section 2

From: This Organization is a non-profit membership corporation established as an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. (Federation)...

continued on page 3



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



2004-2005 NCFF Board of Directors & Officers

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 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:
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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.

April Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 6th 2005
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio

*Beginner Fly Tying, &
 Favorite Fly (Holly Freedman)*

6:30 - 7:45 PM

Guest Speaker:

Chris Helm

8:00 - 10:00 PM

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April Speaker: 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 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.

Becoming a Charter Club – *continued from front*

To: This Organization is a non-profit membership corporation established as a local extension of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. (Federation)...

Article II, Section 3

Add as first sentence: The Organization shall be a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc.

Article XI, Section 1

From: The fiscal year of the Organization shall be as determined by the Board.

To: The fiscal year of the Organization shall be the same as the fiscal year established by the Federation.

Article XI, Section 7 (New Section)

Add: Financial statements. Financial statements shall be submitted to the Federation at such time and in such a manner as determined by the Federation. If authorized by the Organization, the Federation will include the Organization in its Group 990 Tax Return.

Article XIV – Amendments

Add as last sentence: The amendment will then be presented to the Federation Board for approval and will go into effect upon such approval.

Article XVII - Conflict of Authority (New Article)

Add: Any conflict between these constitution and bylaws and a Federation instrument which specifically controls activities of a Charter Club, shall be decided in favor of the Federation's instrument.

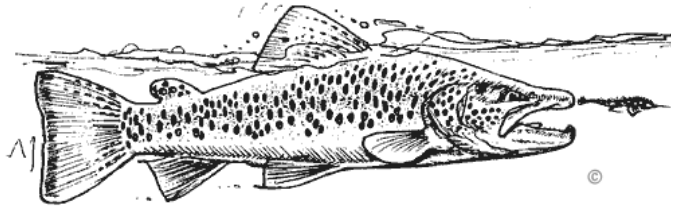
Article XVIII - Approval of Constitution and Bylaws (New Article)

Add: These Constitution and Bylaws shall become binding and effective when they are duly accepted at a meeting of the Membership, notice of which was given as provided by Article IV, Section 5; approved by the Board of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. and signed by the President and Secretary of the Organization.

Pennsylvania Trout Outing at Camp Hunter Sunrise

Directed by: Andy Setlock & Adam Pawlowski

**Saturday, May 14, 2005,
7:00 a.m. till Dark, Titusville, PA**

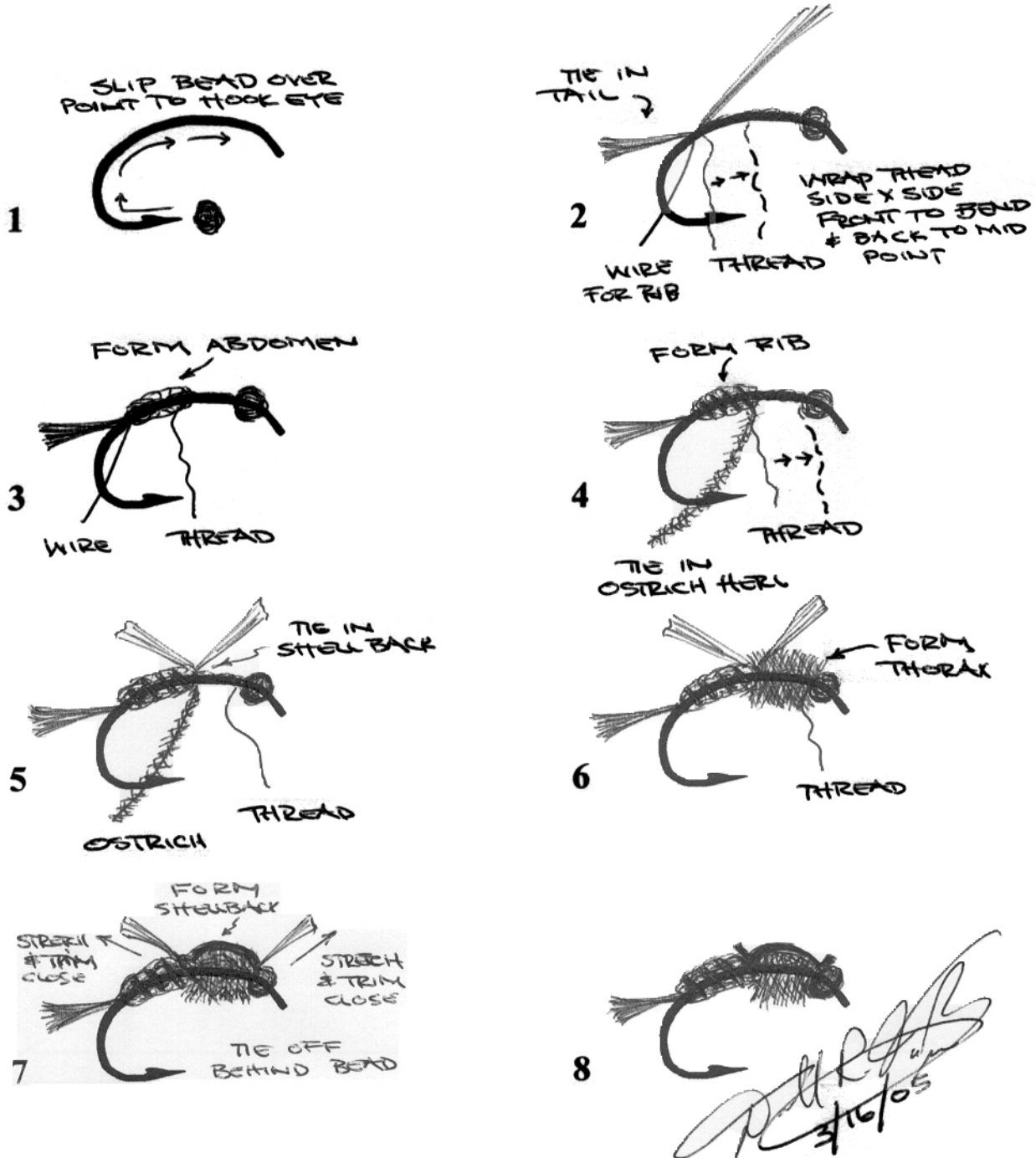


- NCFE Members & Guests can fish Caldwell, Pine, Oil, Thompson Run, Big and Little Sugar Creek and Pit Hole.
- Coffee & Doughnuts for the early birds. Lunch will be served after 11 AM
- Cost will be \$5 per person
- Members and their guests wishing to attend this outing can sign up at the April meeting. Details will be provided at this meeting

NCFF Favorite Fly

Grand River PT Stone Fly Tied by John S. Marics

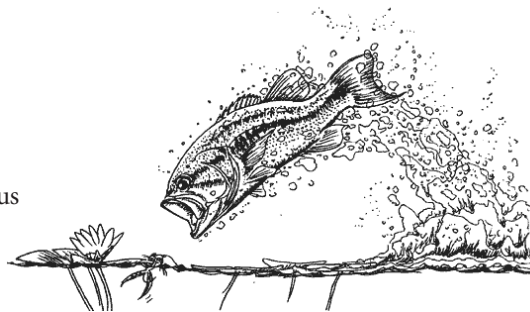
Hook	Daiichi 1530 2X-Strong 1X-Short	Size 12	
Thread	Black 6/0	Head	Black Bead size 1/8
Tail	Black Pheasant Tail	Abdomen	Black Pheasant Tail
Rib	Copper Wire Small	Thorax	Black Ostrich Plume
Shellback	Flexi-Flash Back Gray/Silver		



Ideas for Change

by Doug Crouch, President, NCFF

Just a quick reminder that over the course of the next two months, we are asking **all** club members for ideas to improve the club. Specifically, ideas dealing with utilizing the surplus funds, improving the club and increasing membership. Please take some time and write down your ideas. You can turn these in to me at any members meeting or email them to me at president@ncff.net.



Changes in NCFF Financial Management

by Jim Gavacs, Treasurer, NCFF

As we go into the next NCFF program year, we will make some important changes in how our finances are handled. Key is that your board is developing a budget for our activities. This will give you, the members, an overall view of where our funds come from, and where they are spent.

In the past, major expenses for the club have been approved on an individual basis by the membership. Now, the overall budget will be presented by the board and approved by the members. This will provide a framework within which the board will function.

Just a few years ago, our club was nearly broke. Now, thanks to the success of Expo, our club has a good fund balance. We have been doing well in meeting our educational objective with our speakers and fly tying programs. Now, we need to address our conservation and fishing access objective. This can be done through volunteer work efforts and appropriate contribution of funds, funds available from the proceeds of Expo. With your input, and the guidance of the Ideas committee appointed by President Doug Crouch, your board is working on how best to meet these objectives in promoting the sport of fly fishing, and making this a good experience for NCFF members.

As we look at the timing of our income and expenses, we see that a significant part of our Expo income is received nearly a year before the event. These funds cannot be used for other purposes, as they are needed to cover Expo expenses in the event that gate receipts are wiped out due to something such as a major winter storm. Similarly, the club must maintain a fund balance to cover emergencies and variations in expenses for club activities. Each year following Expo, the major source of club funding, the board will develop the budget for the following year and determine the funds available for contributions or other special club purposes.

As the board begins this new budgeting process, our dependence on Expo has become more apparent. Expo is a major financial engine in the running of our club. The club needs to develop other funding sources in order to diversify our income. More work is needed to address these issues. The board's conclusions will be shared with you in the budget presentation at the May membership meeting.

2005 Nominations

by Don Van Buren, Past President, NCFF

At the March Board meeting, a nominating committee, consisting of Don Van Buren (NCFF Past President), Adam Pawlowski, Mike Skoczen and George Vosmik was established. Their assignment is to nominate a slate for next year's (2005-2006) NCFF Board of Directors. Any member in good standing can be nominated for Board Membership. If you are willing to serve and perform the duties associated with Board Membership you may contact any member of the nominating committee to enter your name.

The slate of nominees will be presented to the current NCFF Board of Directors during April 13, 2005 Board Meeting.

Nominations from the floor, during our May 4, 2005 Membership Meeting, will be accepted provided consent of the nominee is given to the Secretary at the time of the nomination. The election of Board Members by the NCFF Membership will take place that night.

At the May 11, 2005 NCFF Board meeting, the Nominating Committee will present the slate of Directors approved by the Membership and a list of nominees to serve as Officers will be recommended at that time to the new Board of Directors. The Board will then elect the officers of the Club, from the approved slate, for the 2005-2006 NCFF season. They will take office at the June 8, 2005 Board Meeting and be formally introduced at our annual picnic event.

Announcement of April Favorite Fly Tier

The April 6, 2005 Favorite Fly program will be led by Holly Freedman. Holly just started to tie flies a few years ago and already is an accomplished tier. Lets join Holly in continuing a very successful NCFF Educational program at the tying table next month.



The Fly Tier's Corner

The rewards of teaching fly tying

by Don Van Buren

I have stated many times that teaching fly tying is one of the ways that each of us can promote our sport and further our sport of fly fishing. I have occasionally mentioned the satisfaction of sharing your knowledge by being a teacher or mentor to someone who wants to learn how to tie flies or fly fish in general, and the rewards that come from helping others.

Recently I was rewarded by being witness to the success of a person who I had help teach the art fly tying to. A little background; Wolf and Inge Schrey of Michigan invited me to visit them at their cabin and fish for Salmon on the fabled Pere Marquette River several years ago. Both Inge and Wolf were just beginning to learn how to tie flies and both were very eager to advance their fly tying skills. Inge was very determined to learn to tie flies correctly i.e., selection of materials, proportions, color, silhouette, proper technique, etc., etc. Wolf on the other hand was primarily interested in "do the flies catch fish?" This was never more evident when he learned how to tie "Glue Eggs" and fished them successfully. He became so adapt at creating the "Glue Egg" that I accused him of spawning! Needless to say his patterns, though limited in variety were very successful on the stream and he fished them extremely well.

Inge wanted more. She approached fly tying with a determination to succeed. The patterns had to be right, tied correctly, look good, etc. Ultimately they had to catch fish as well but this was a priority she put off until she could tie the styles and patterns she wanted to her satisfaction.

My involvement with teaching Inge started with a simple request to critique her flies. I'm not sure if she understood what she was getting into by asking me critique and comment on her flies. I had spent

most of my working career in quality assurance before retiring and on many occasions, too many for sure, was accused of being extremely detailed, and a perfectionist. She did not back down and wanted me to critique her flies and help her tie better. We started out with a simple ground rule I would critique truthfully and not hold anything back by glossing over any errors, etc. If she could put up with this type of critique I would help her improve her fly tying skills. I qualified my purpose of a tough critique by telling her that if I did not point out all of her deficiencies with her tying, and glossed over them, I would be doing her disservice and she would not advance her skills. She would instead continue on without any improvement or expanding her knowledge of fly tying. Ultimately her learning curve would be stretched out as she basically tried to learn on her own without the benefit of a mentor.

The fun began almost from the start! The first critique of her flies was brutally blunt and struck at the very core of her pride, her workmanship. I was careful not to destroy her confidence or critique her fly tying in a personal manner. I kept it directed at the fly and how she could improve tying it, etc always offering her en-

couragement, while pointing out all the things she did correctly. All teachers of fly tying should have a determined student like Inge at least once. To this day I do not know how I escaped bodily harm following some of our sessions at the tying bench. I think the fact that I only saw her several times during the year had something to do with my survival.

Slowly she began to show marked improvement as her natural tying skills began to blossom. The quality of her tying improved and she became more confident with her abilities. Suddenly, she was into different patterns requiring different tying skills, and I'm proud to also say she was not afraid to share her knowledge.

Many funny things happened along the way, like her threatening to look at my flies with a magnifying glass. Another time she dared me to find something wrong with a fly she was particularly proud of, all the time I was under her determined steely stare, talk about pressure, wow!

During this mentoring/teaching process I also came away with much personal satisfaction and was rewarded in seeing a beginner fly tier progress to being an accomplished fly tier. Recently I met Wolf and Inge, at a major fly-fishing show and was shown some of her recent flies. She



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did not ask me to critique them as she is beyond that point.

I commented that the flies were very nice and she could now be teaching me to tie the several patterns she had shown me and I sincerely meant it. She finally confessed that the flies she had shown me were hand selected by several Michigan Celebrity Tiers. Did I not mention earlier that my critique would be truthful?

While this little conversation was taking place with Inge, Wolf was in the background wearing a big Cheshire Cat grin observing the two of us discussing Inge's latest creations. You would be grinning to if you had a wife who tied flies as well as Inge and you got to fish with them not to mention that she had set up her mentor by asking him to look at flies already selected by some pretty well known Michigan Tiers.

Ultimately Inge's flies would be displayed along side those of the Michigan Celebrity Tiers and would be part of a wooden fly box to be raffled or auctioned off as a fundraiser for their club.

Inge, I'm proud of you, you are an excellent tier. But as your mentor I will always be casting a critical eye over your flies! Keep tying and sharing your knowledge. Wolf, you and I will gladly do the field-testing.



Why are we an FFF Club?

by Joe Valencic

Every year someone seems to ask this question (and it came up again recently), so it's time to address it once again. Interestingly enough, I have only heard this question based on two issues; the cost of dues and/or what we get in return for our dues. Nobody ever said to me that they disagree with the positions FFF takes on its conservation initiatives, or how FFF positioned itself on legislative issue pertaining to fisheries. This makes me wonder how much is really known about the work of FFF and its myriad network of volunteers at the local, regional and national level.

We are fly fishers and FFF is the only national organization looking out for the things that are important to our sport for us today and for future generations. We belong to the only national fishing organization that certifies its casting instructors not only in their casting technique, but also on their ability to teach that technique. FFF is not a certification mill for cranking out instructors; they want to make sure that every man, woman and child that wants to learn to cast will be able to be taught by their certified instructors. If you can't teach people how to cast, you cannot become certified with FFF. Having casting ability does not automatically mean you have teaching ability.

I have to ask myself why someone would voluntarily join an organization that supports, enhances and promotes fly-fishing and conservation of fisheries and fish habitat, and expect to receive something tangible in return. Do we give to Goodwill or the Salvation Army and expect something in return? Those expensive Girl Scout cookies we all buy? No, we do not expect to receive anything other than the good feeling that comes from supporting a worthwhile organization that is help-

ing other people. Why should we look at FFF any differently than these other non-profit organizations? Why should we expect something in return for supporting the work of an organization that supports our sport and everyone in it?

A quick glance at the home page of the FFF web site shows the 2005 Endangered Fisheries Initiative (national action item), the Annual Boy Scout Jamboree where 3,000 scouts will work on their Fly Fishing Merit Badges with a huge network of FFF volunteers (an FFF initiated program), and an Action Alert for the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers. These are just a few of the many programs and initiatives FFF is leading the charge on, or actively participating in. The last issue of Flyfisher had an article about FFF's leadership role in the Alliance for Fly Fishing Education, with one of its goals being to improve the overall quality of fly fishing education programs using the best practices available. This will put fly fishing and fly tying education programs in the same category as the Certified Casting Instructor program. Do you find value in that?

I could go on about the work of FFF and its network of volunteers, but I won't. What I will do is ask one simple question that each member can answer for himself or herself; does the work that FFF performs on your behalf have any value to my sport or me? Membership in NCFE means support for promotion of fly fishing through education and conservation. We must all put our efforts into accomplishing those objectives, which FFF helps us achieve. Other clubs have different objectives, but education and conservation are what we are about. NCFE believes the FFF represents good value and is worthy of support. We hope you do too.

Tight Lines!

Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

April 6, 2005	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Chris Helm	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
April 13, 2005	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
May 4, 2005	Annual Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Dan Catau	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
May 11, 2005	Annual Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
May 14, 2004	Trout Outing	Titusville, PA
June 1	Picnic & Introduction of New Officers	Helen Hazen Park 5:30 PM - Dark
June 8	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

www.ncff.net

North Coast Fly Fishers
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