

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 19 Issue 9

April 2006

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The President's Line

by Dick Erickson

We live in a world with a mix of linear and circular patterns. On the job we begin projects and work toward an objective that benefits the enterprise. At home we also follow linear paths to complete improvement projects. At the same time we follow circular patterns, that often follow the seasons, in planting gardens, nourishing them, and then harvesting crops. In education we have a combination that follows seasonal patterns for each year, and moves linearly from kindergarten through high school, college and graduate school. That same combination of patterns occurs for us in NCFE.

With the change in weather we look forward to the spring steelhead run, the opening of trout season, and then warm water fishing for bass and panfish. And, while it is hard to believe, we are nearing the end of this program year, and planning programs, budgets and leadership for next year. As we work on those plans, we also strive for long-term improvements in excellence in our club, and greater impact of our education and conservation projects. For this, we need your help.

Our past president, Doug Crouch, is leading a nominating committee for officers for next year, and we are looking for people to handle the many tasks that make NCFE an effective club. We want to spread the load to avoid burnout among our leaders and members, and to bring in new ideas. We particularly need help with preparations for Expo where we are dividing tasks to make it more manageable. We are also strengthening our edu-

cational outreach program where we are finding many new opportunities, and need to be training volunteers to help with teaching. Please let us know of your willingness to help, and your suggestions for leaders.

These improvements also have an impact on our budget. Over the last year I have tried to help you as members see the need to reduce our dependence on Expo for basic club operations to free more Expo generated funds for education and conservation projects. These projects have value in themselves, but they also build the stature and attractiveness of our club. This will help us in Expo promotion in the community, in our ability to generate funds. We have noted that our dues cover only about half the costs of producing and mailing our newsletter. We have also worked to obtain more donations for raffles so that our raffles raise more funds for club operations. Your support of these raffles is important.

We are also looking at dues for next year. Some Expo proceeds will continue to support basic operations, particularly our speakers program, which is both entertaining and educational. We are checking to see how our current \$10 per year dues compares with other clubs in Ohio, the Great Lakes Council, elsewhere in the Federation of Fly Fishers. We anticipate some increase. The question is how much is appropriate. In this also we need your support.

Dick Erickson



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



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

April Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, April 5th 2006
 Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
 Kirtland, Ohio*

*Beginner Fly Tying
 & Favorite Fly
 6:30 - 7:45 PM
 Guest Speaker
 Lisa Dean
 8:00 - 10:00 PM*

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April's Speaker: Lisa Dean

by Jim Gavacs

This month's speaker will be Lisa Dean from Elk Springs Outfitters on the Elk River in central West Virginia. It's been compared to the Le Tort, a little smaller, a little closer with lots of big selective trout.

The 'Elk' is a spring creek and contains hatches year round, so the fish are well fed and well educated. It contains a naturally reproducing population of browns and rainbows in the headwaters section, which is where 'Elksprings' is located. The Elk River's size 32s will be mentioned, but there are prolific hatches of insects you can see also.

There is a lodge, cabins and campgrounds, which you can check out at www.elkspringsflyshop.com. The area also contains much Appalachian history, civil war battlefields, Pearl S. Buck's birthplace (we all struggled with "The Good Earth" in high school, but who'd of thought Pearl Buck was from rural West Virginia), scenic railroads, cranberry glades like those on the Canadian Tundra and of course the Elk River and it's fly fishing opportunities.

So I hope to see you in April and get a better look at this getaway in the mountains of West Virginia.



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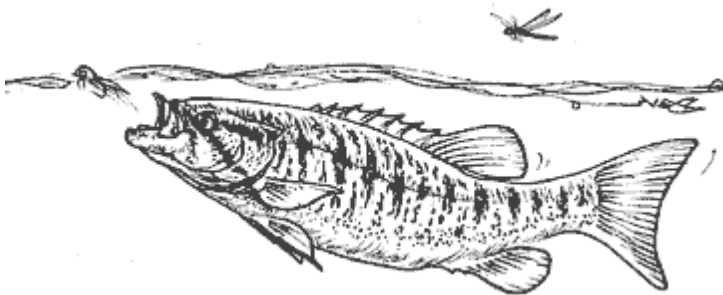
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First Annual NCFE "Blind Bugger" Contest Results

by Mike Skoczen

We had seven very brave tiers attempt to tie a wooly bugger while blindfolded and the results were very entertaining. The five minute time limit proved to be a bit too challenging so we relaxed that rule in order to have something to judge. In the end all of the contestants turned in an entry that at least remotely resembled a wooly bugger and for that they all deserve a bit of congratulations. Even though

everyone was a good sport and gave it their best, someone had to win. After an intense round of judging in a close call, prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place to Eric Nakanishi, Mike Klonoski, and Jim Howell respectively. Again congratulations to all who participated. It was so much fun that we decided to try it again. Look for more "blind" tying contests at future NCFE events.



Summertime 2006 Outings

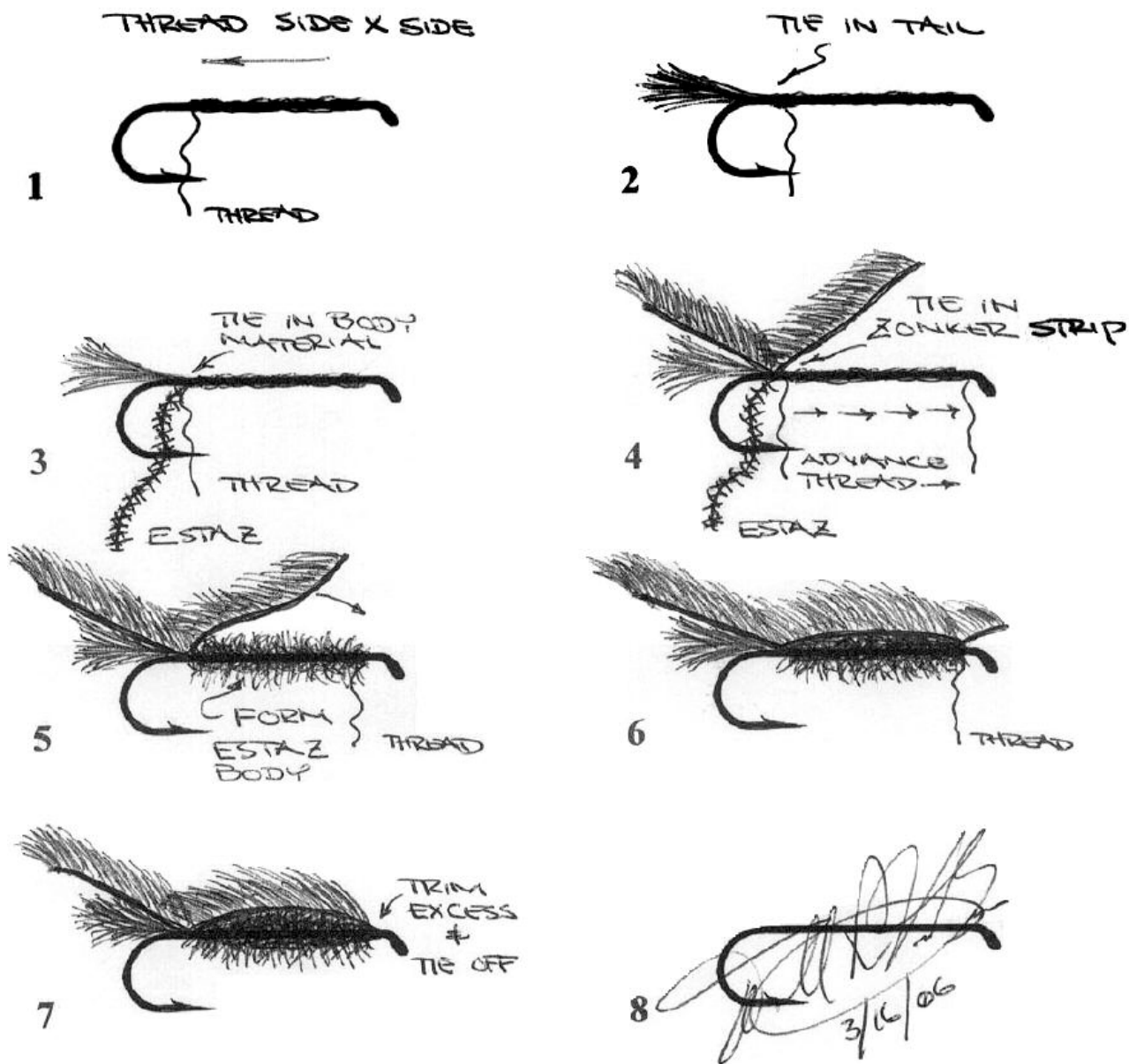
by Mike Skoczen

With the end of steelhead season and the arrival of warmer weather my mind begins to turn to some of my favorite fly fishing targets – smallmouth bass and carp. I will be organizing a separate outing for each of them in the coming months. The details are still being finalized so keep an eye out for announcements. In the meantime please send me any ideas that you have for either outing and I will try to incorporate them into the plans. If you haven't had the opportunity to catch either fish on a fly consider joining us, you will be in for a real treat.

NCFE Favorite Fly

Estaz Zonker Tied by Adam Pawlowski

Hook	Mustad 9672 ' Size 6-10	Thread Red 6/0
Tail	Red Feather or Yarn	Body Estaz Color Blue or your choice
Over Body	White Zonker Strip or color of your choice	
Head	Finish Streamer Style	



Website Enhancement – Fly Patterns Index

by: Joe Valencic, Webmaster

I closely watch the statistics related to our website to monitor its performance as a communications tool for NCFE. It should come as no surprise that the number one key word search pattern that sends people to our website is “Fly Tying Patterns,” and you’ve read that in this newsletter several times over the years. I’m embarrassed to report that when visitors reach our fly tying page that there are somewhat disappointed by the small number of fly patterns available there, and that’s the reason for this article.

At the last Board meeting Mike Skoczen suggested that we improve the fly patterns page, and I volunteered to help under the following condition; All flies and recipes must come from the membership. Yours truly is not going to post any more of his own fly patterns on the website. This is the North Coast Fly Fishers website, not Joe Valencic’s website, and if the membership wants the patterns page improved, then the membership will contribute to its improvement. If you fail to see improvement you’ll know where to

point the finger. If you would like to be part of the improvement process and get your name on the website with the fly you tied, here’s how it will work:

1. ANY fly pattern can be submitted for the patterns page as long as a member has tied it. Believe it or not, many new tyers devour the Internet looking for recipes for the standard patterns that veteran tyers take for granted. Standard patterns are just fine to submit, as well as any variations you may have made.

2. SUBMIT YOUR BEST FLY. People from anywhere and everywhere look at fly patterns online, and those patterns should be the best reproduction of the original pattern as possible. Materials should be the best you have and should be applied using the best practices.

3. Two flies should be submitted in a crush resistant container (like a hook box) to protect them. The best of the two will be photographed for the website in a light

box with appropriate background to best show the fly. Flies will not be returned.

4. The “Recipe Card” must be filled out listing all materials and/or components; Fly Name, Category, Tied By, Hook, Tread, Tail, Body, Hackle, Rib, Thorax, Eyes, Wing, Underwing, Head, Tying Instructions/Comments, Category (Nymph, streamer, wet, dry, emerger, egg pattern, realistic, salt), Thread (try to include the denier if possible). A brief or detailed tying sequence with any special notes should also be provided.

5. Bring the fly and recipe to any membership meeting or club event and it will find its way to me for posting. You can add your e-mail address along with your name only if you want it posted online.

That’s all there is to it. If you have any questions drop me an e-mail at flyfishohio@yahoo.com

Buckeye Bamboo Bash

The Mohican Fly Fishers, an FFF Affiliate Club in Mansfield, Ohio, will host their first Bamboo Rod Bash on April 29, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The location for this event will be Mohican State Park’s Picnic Pavilion at the Route 3 Class “A” campgrounds.

Bamboo rod enthusiast and anyone interested in bamboo rods are invited to attend. Come to look, cast and talk about bamboo rods, or bring that unmarked treasure that’s been gathering dust,

and we’ll try to identify it for you. There are plenty of campgrounds, parks and resorts in the area, so come early and stay over to fish.

Visit the Club’s website at <http://members.aol.com/flytie111/mohican/mohican.htm> or contact: Ron Thompson at (419) 347-6631 E-Mail rthompson@neo.rr.com, or Richard Perry at (614) 891-1498 E-Mail rkpmffc@yahoo.com.

“Double-Up!”

by Keith P. Skilton, courtesy FFF ClubWire

We've all learned that two flies can be better than one. To steelheaders, this means a nymph and egg fly combination separated by 24 inches of fluorocarbon. To trout fisherman, this means a "hopper-dropper" rig where the flies are separated by 18 inches of a lower diameter of monofilament. Too many times, we are just following these "standards" and forget to ask ourselves what we are trying to achieve with the tandem rig? Most answers I hear are to determine what the fish are taking or what I call the trial and error approach. This approach may lead to learning something new for the arsenal but all too many times we just accept that trial and error is good enough which in-turn leads to losing effective fishing time. I'm a big believer in thinking through the approach so then we know the "why" and "how" and just need to apply it to the appropriate "when".

Even though conditions will always dictate the setup, I've learned a few tricks that will help the two flies interact together to improve the presentation. First, let's look at what to do when the fish are surface feeding on very small midges. For

me, it can be very difficult to identify the midge species, especially in low light conditions. In most situations, the caddis or mayfly hatch is about to begin, so what I do is use a two dry fly set-up. The first fly will be say a size 16 Goddard caddis followed by a size 22 Para-midge. As in all surface-subsurface arrangements, the Goddard pattern will act as a strike indicator but will also be taken by the opportunist feeders. I try to pick the front pattern to be larger and very buoyant. Getting the proper drift will depend on the length of separation between the two flies. Always start longer, say 30 inches, and shorten up as necessary.

Secondly, let's look at the dry fly and emerger combination. The fish are mainly feeding right below the surface with the occasional adult fly being seen taken. Fish tend to pick a spot in the water column to pick off the emerging insect and generally get the insect when it gets caught in the surface film. The trick here is to use an indicator parachute style first fly that rides in the surface film and place the dropper at or just above where the fish are holding. It's a very "in your face" approach and is

highly effective. The separation between the two flies can only be accurately determined by seeing where the fish is in the water column but it is generally short (6-12 inches). Experience will aid in judging distances underwater.

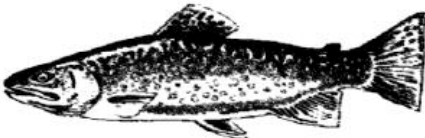
Thirdly, let's examine the famous of all tandem rigs, the dry and nymph combination. Here the two patterns used will be of the same fly but in different stages and the water depth/flow will dictate the length of separation. Commonly, you are not able to see the fish lower in the water column; hence you're targeting fish at or near the bottom. It's no secret to use a "hang down" technique at the end of the cast to allow the bottom fly to imitate a swimming nymph, but be cautious of when you do this. I have found it's better to dead drift the rig beyond all the feeding fish, then transition to a swing and hold it. Messing with the top fly above the known fish may turn them off. Since fish have now learned to move around there will likely be fish downstream of the risers, waiting lower in the water column for their turn in the active feeding lane.

The fourth combination to look at is the nymph and nymph rig. Here again we must consider how the two flies will interact together and I've found the most effective display will be to use a larger weighted pattern as the first fly and a smaller, more buoyant pattern as the second. The larger pattern gets the second fly down faster and could be a better alternative than loading up the leader with split shot. Twisting the rod tip will also help the second fly rise and dive more naturally. The separation will vary but as a general rule keep them close together for fishing deep and further apart for a more searching approach.

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The fifth option is the nymph/streamer combination which is used to emulate a baitfish going after a nymph. The theory here is that bigger fish will go after the larger patterns and I've seen this countless times in nature where I have a smaller fish on the line and a bigger fish shows itself either by a curious follow or an outright attack. I haven't been able to say for sure that this set-up is a sure thing. Whenever I fish for bigger fish using streamers, I only use one fly. I have heard that in lakes or slow rivers that the streamer/nymph set-up is valuable in that the larger pattern will first get a fish's attention who will then take the nymph. Again, I think this is more of a trial and error approach.

Lastly, doubling up on streamers has its place but for me but it has only been in salt water applications where I was casting into large pods of blitzing baitfish. Structure, for the most part, should always be targeted when fishing streamers and losing flies is part of the program. My streamers tend to be somewhat more elaborate patterns and losing two at a time can be frustrating.

Fishing two patterns at once, in theory, will always better your odds. The key is to use your knowledge of fish behavior and reading the water to make your fishing more productive. Beginners will always have the trial and error period of learning, but once experience is gained you'll be able to know when the right time is to double-up. This is a dynamic approach and always requires re-evaluation of the rig. Everything is always changing underwater and to be as successful as you can, it'll necessitate you to change as well. This is the key to being a good fisherman!

Fly Fishing Internet Radio

courtesy FFF ClubWire

The Federation of Fly Fishers is pleased to announce that it has entered into a Strategic Alliance with Ask About Fly Fishing Internet Radio. FFF members, you will soon see the new fly fishing internet radio show, the press release for which is posted below, appearing on the FFF website in several ways.....as a menu item under the Education menu tab, as a banner ad on the home page, and as an FFF Fly Fisher Forum category.

A new Internet radio show, Ask About Fly Fishing, has introduced a fresh approach to educating fly fishers. Interviews with industry experts are broadcast LIVE over the Internet and also via teleconference calls for an international audience.

Denver, CO (PRWEB) February 28, 2006 -- While many fly fishing shows offer access to experts who share their knowledge, only a small percentage of fly fishers are able to attend. Now, two avid fly fishers have combined the idea of talk radio and the Internet to bring the fishing experts live into the living rooms of those who want to learn more about the sport.

D. Roger Maves and Don Bishop, the founders of Ask About Fly Fishing – Internet Radio, have assembled a cadre of experts for their twice monthly shows. Fly fishing greats such as Mike Lawson, Jack Dennis, Gary Borger, A.K. Best and more will be interviewed on upcoming Internet radio shows. These experts answer questions submitted by the audience about topics from fishing Spring Creeks to stalking Roosterfish in Baja's surf and every other aspect of fresh and saltwater fly fishing.

"The live call-in question and answer portion of our show is particularly unique," says Maves, producer and co-host of the shows.

Internet radio shows differ from conventional radio in that they are recorded. If their live show is missed, one can listen to the recorded show on the Ask About Fly Fishing, web site.

"This makes it convenient for everyone to learn more about fly fishing regardless of their location or schedule," says Bishop, co-host for the shows.

The next broadcast will be March 15th at 7:00 PM (MT) and will feature Mike Lawson expert fly fisher, speaker and author. His recently published book "Spring Creeks" is a beautifully illustrated and comprehensive work about fishing spring creeks and tailwaters. On the show Lawson will answer questions about successfully fishing these challenging waters.

Visit www.askaboutflyfishing.com and sign in free to receive advance notification of their upcoming fly fishing Internet radio shows and to receive a free report on improving your fly casting. Contact Information: D. Roger Maves - 303-430-4634 - <http://www.askaboutflyfishing.com/media>



Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

April 5	Membership Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 10:00 PM
April 12	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
May 3	Annual Membership Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 10:00 PM
May 10	Annual Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
June 7	Picnic & Introduction of New Officers	Helen Hazen Park 5:30 PM - Dark
June 14	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

North Coast Fly Fishers
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