

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 18 Issue 9

May 2005

In this issue:

NCCF Recommended Directors Slate	1
FFF Dues Increase	1
Ideas for Change Last Chance	1
May (Annual) Membership Meeting	2
May Speaker	3
May Favorite Fly Tier	3
Pennsylvania Trout Outing	3
Favorite Fly	4
Fly Tier's Corner	5
Red Butt Chironomid	5
The Right Fly	6
Schedule of Upcoming Events	8

NCCF Nominating Committee Recommended 2005-2006 Directors Slate

by: Don Van Buren, NCCF Past President and Chairman of the NCCF Nominating Committee

The 2005-2006 North Coast Fly Fishers (NCCF) Nominating Committee is made up of the following NCCF members, Adam Pawlowski, Mike Skoczen, George Vosmik and Don Van Buren (Past President)

Listed below are the nine current NCCF Officers and Directors who have stated they will be willing to return as NCCF Directors. One additional name, Mike Skoczen, has been added via the recruitment route.

The 2005-2006 NCCF Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for

NCCF Directors to serve for the NCCF 2005-2006 season. Doug Crouch, Dick Erickson, Jim Gavacs, Connie Hodge, Lenny Jagoda, Eric Nakanishi, George Shuffert, Mike Skoczen, Joe Valencic and Don Van Buren.

This list for NCCF Directors will be brought before the NCCF Membership at our May 4, 2005 Annual Membership Meeting for their approval. At this meeting nomination from the floor will also be accepted.

FFF Dues Increase

by: Joe Valencic

FFF will be increasing dues for all classes of membership effective July 1, 2005. You have until June 30th to renew your dues at the current rate, and that also includes the 3-year renewal which is the best deal going. FFF has held the membership dues at the same price for quite a few years, so this increase is justified to keep up with increasing costs across the board. The new rates will be posted in the coming weeks on the FFF website at www.fedflyfishers.org.

Ideas for Change

by Doug Crouch, President, NCCF

Just a quick final reminder that 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 our next members meeting or email them to me at president@ncff.net.



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.

May (Annual) Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, May 4th 2005
 Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
 Kirtland, Ohio*

*Beginner Fly Tying, &
 Favorite Fly (Mike Klonowski)*

6:30 - 7:45 PM

Guest Speaker:

Dan Catau

8:00 - 10:00 PM

CLEVELAND'S PREMIER FLY FISHING & FLY TYING HEADQUARTERS

FEATURING:

- ORVIS • BAUER
- SCOTT • ROSS
- SAGE • CHOTA
- SIMMS • UMPQUA
- RIO • FISHPOND
- AND MUCH MORE



5128 Colorado Ave. (Rt.611) Sheffield Village, OH
 20 minutes west of Cleveland · Exit 151 off I-90
 Open 7 Days

**LORAIN (440) 934-5345
 CLEVELAND (440) 835-0861**

The Backpackers Shop®

• EXPERT OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS SINCE 1966 •

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

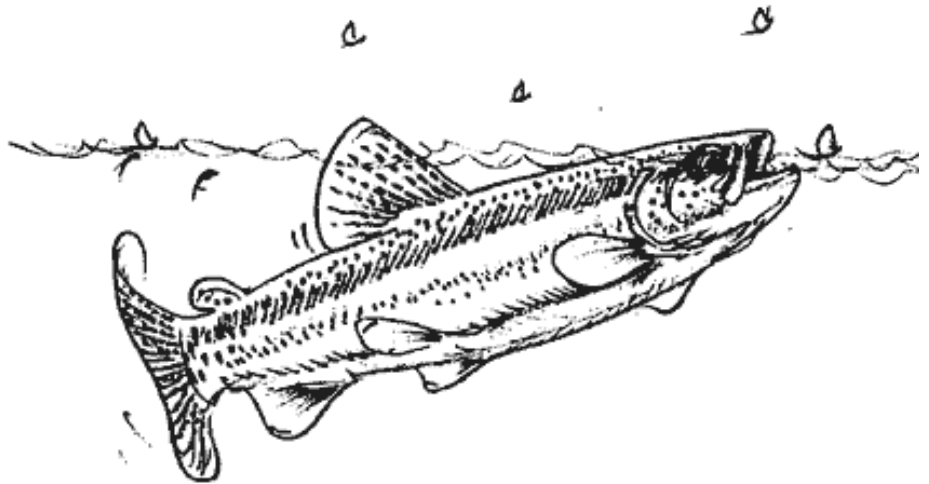
May Speaker: Dan Catau

Author of "In The Thrill OF The Night," Dan Catau lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan and has spent most of his time fly-fishing the streams and rivers of northern Michigan. He is well known for his fly tying and fly-fishing prowess. He has supplied his flies to people all over the country and world, including such noted celebrities as William Conrad and the professional golfer Jack Nicklaus. He has appeared on TV on numerous occasions to demonstrate fly tying and fly-fishing. Dan brings forth 45 years of solid fly tying and fly-fishing experience.

May Favorite Fly Tier: Mike Klonowski

The May 4, 2005 Favorite Fly program will be led by Mike Klonowski. Mike is an accomplished tier and always is ready to contribute flies for any worthy NCFE event.

Lets join Mike in continuing a very successful NCFE Educational program at the tying table next month.



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 May meeting. Details will be provided at this meeting

NCFF Favorite Fly

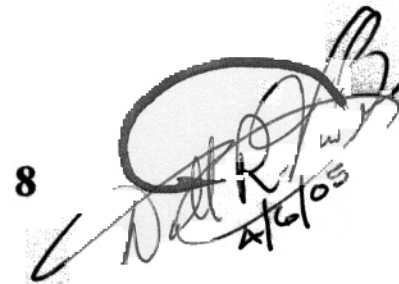
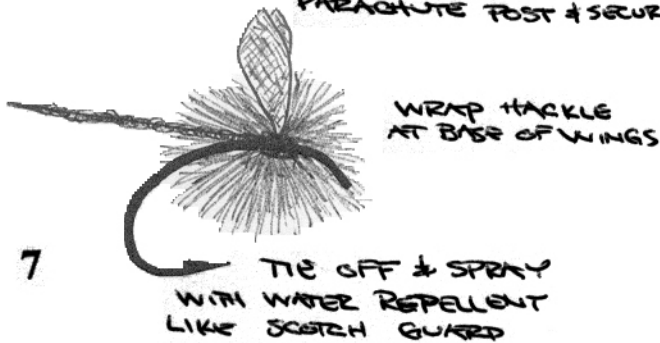
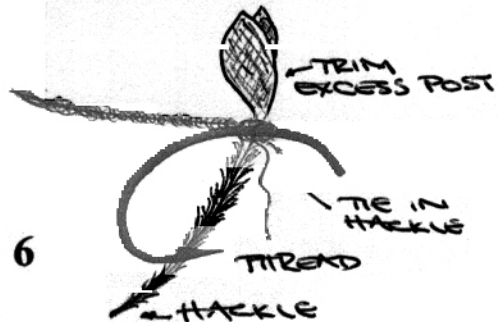
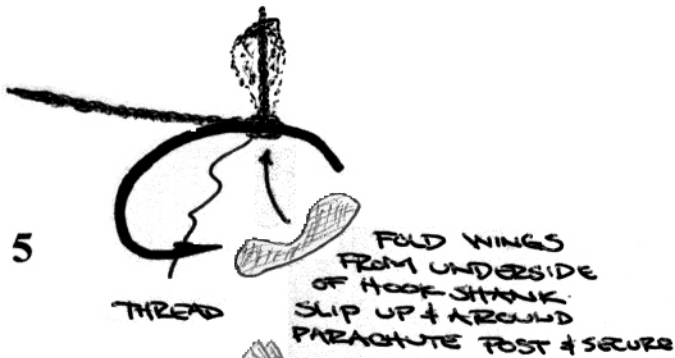
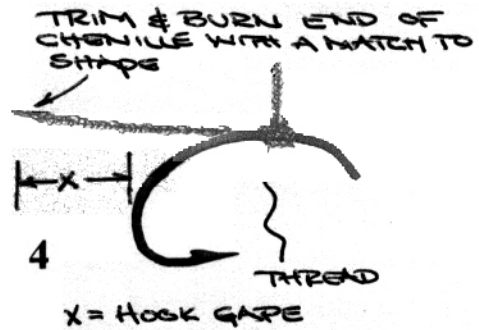
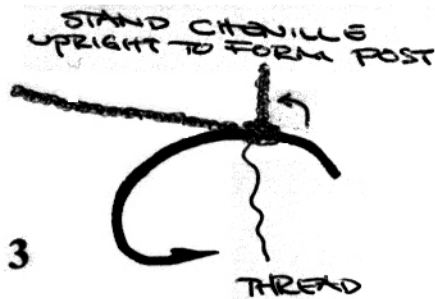
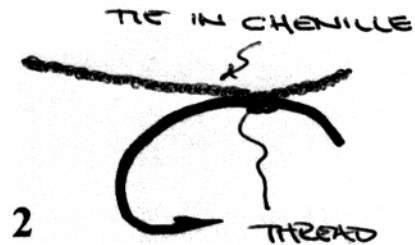
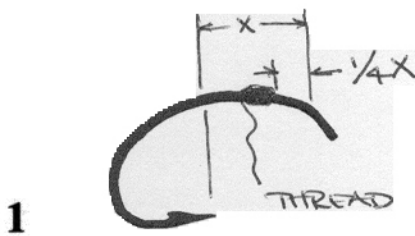
B. T.'s Beauty Tied by Holly Freedman

Hook
Body
Hackle

TMC 2487 Size 14
Olive Chenille
Grizzly

Thread
Wings
Head

Olive or Brown 6/0 or 8/0
Perfect cut Mayfly
Finish Dry Fly Style



NOTE: PERFECT CUT MAYFLY WINGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM GANDER MOUNTAIN OR ROCKY MOUNTAIN DUBBING CO.

The Fly Tier's Corner Federating!

by Don Van Buren

Definition: "To cause to join into a league or similar association." FFF uses "federating" to describe what occurs when fly fishers and fly-fishing organizations gather and exchange information between each other.

Sometimes we get caught up in the routine of our monthly club meetings and fail to recognize that North Coast Fly Fishers does a superb job of federating, both actively and passively. In the "actively federating" category would be our annual Conclave and Expo. These high profile events bring together some of the best-known tiers in the hobby to interact with a diverse group of enthusiasts at all levels of experience for the express reason of sharing information and ideas. This is federating at its highest visibility.

We "actively federate" at our monthly meetings by sharing stories, instructing new members and guests at the basics of fly tying, as well as with our Favorite Fly program. Getting together, sharing information and having a few laughs is federating at its best. We seem to be very good at it. Oh, and let's not forget the outings! Andy's outing at Camp Hunter Sunrise brings us together around the campfire for fishing, food, story telling and federating each Spring.

Another "active" area is our Club Collaboration program. NCCF participates in the Annual GLC Fly Tying Expo, the GLC Fly Fishing School & Conclave and the Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show. We have representation on both the GLC and OSC Boards of Directors to participate in the policy and decision-making process for the region, and NCCF has participated in tying/teaching sessions at several of the Ohio FFF Clubs. We "actively federate" with non-FFF organizations such as doing fly tying demonstrations at Gander Mountain stores, the Chagrin River Salmon Club (river cleanups and basic fly tying lessons) and we recently spent an entire day teaching basic fly tying and fly casting for the Grand River Chapter of Women in the Outdoors.

"Passive Federating" is how I would describe our newsletter and website. By printing the Favorite Fly patterns in the newsletter and then posting the newsletter on the website, we "federate" with the rest of the fly fishing community in a virtual environment. Enthusiasts who cannot be at our monthly meetings to tie flies and share stories, become part of an extended family through our sharing of information on the Internet. It's truly amazing how many people's lives can be touched without leaving the comfort of your home.

"Federating" can occur in many different settings for different reasons, with different objectives. The important point here is that we continue to gather as a group of fly fishing enthusiasts and share our experiences with each other. We can do that through story telling, teaching, mentoring or just welcoming a new member or guest. By participating at any level you will find that "Federating" is really about "Fun."

Red Butt Chironomid

Drawings and article by Eric Schubert of the North Idaho Fly Casters Club, courtesy FFF ClubWire

If you are an avid fly fisher, this is the time of year that you are closely watching local lakes shed their winter coating of ice. Incidental with the retreat of ice, fish begin to more actively feed in the shallow areas of lakes. Edges of lakes begin to absorb sunlight causing the annual emergence of insects to begin. Among the most prolific insects which begin their emergence from their larvae to adult stage are the chironomids. The authors of the book *Flies of the Northwest* put it best: "If mayflies are the piece de resistance to feeding trout in still and slow moving water, chironomids are their bread and butter". In the area surrounding Coeur d'Alene, the largest hatches of chironomids occur from April through June. Found in greatest abundance in lake environments, they range from 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches in length, with the average being approximately 1/2 inch in length. Chironomids migrate from the bottom of lake beds to the surface in a variety of stages. Beginning in an egg form, they progress to a larvae, pupae and adult stage. For the fly fisher, the pupae stage appears to be the most productive, primarily due to the vulnerability of the insect during this stage.

If you are a "float-tuber" you can easily recognize the pupae form of this insect by its long and slender worm-like body which is segmented. Most have small tufts of white gills which protrude from the area just below the head. In their adult stage, chironomids look much like mosquitoes, but thankfully, they do not bite.

Fishing with Chironomid patterns can be very challenging. Twelve to eighteen foot leaders are often a requirement, as fly patterns are presented just above the bottom of lakes, in order to mimic an actually emerging insect. The Red Butt chironomid has a small bead-head which assists the fly in reaching the required depths quickly. Strike indicators are a must for this type of fishing, since leaders are very long and strikes may be difficult to detect. When you present the fly to the fish, make sure that you allow sufficient time for the fly to sink to the proper depth. This takes some getting used to, as most fly fishers are in the habit of making lots of repetitive casts with not much time between casts. Fishing chironomid patterns requires patience, patience, patience. Once the fly is has sunk to the proper level, make sure that you exert very little movement this is not dry fly fishing. Since the movement of chironomids is very slow it is not necessary to move your rod tip at all. Merely sit and wait for your strike indicator to move. This style of fishing has been described appropriately as a fly fisher's version of the "bobber and bait" technique. Fish sip these insects very gently, so don't expect a fast and furious strike. Keeping your eye on the strike indicator is the key to successful hookups.

The Right Fly

by Daryl Crowley – West Michigan Hacklers Club, courtesy FFF ClubWire

The chaos of uncertainty: "Which fly to tie on? Which fly is the one fly that a lunker trout just couldn't resist today?" I'm not talking about the times when the choice is a given such as when the Hex hatch is on, or the trout are feeding heavily on salmon eggs. Those are the easy times when we know we want some sort of a big floating bug or some sort of egg pattern and while we may ponder which particular mayfly or glo-bug color we want, it's fairly certain that most flies fitting the general criteria will work well on that day. But what about those times when there is no hatch, no salmon eggs, or mass migration of lemmings, what then? These are the times that test the mettle of fly-fishermen, separating the chaff from the wheat, and dictating glory or failure. These are the times when legends are made: when we can pull the metaphoric rabbit-out-of-the-hat, hang tough when the chips are down, scrap the bottom of the barrel, and save the day. Legends are indeed made of these times and this is an opportunity for glory. This could be the day that they will write songs about and stories will be told around the campfires for generations about the day, when against all odds, we caught a giant trout in the face of adversity. And looming large in our legend-to-be: the right fly. And there in one of our fly boxes, nestled amongst all his brethren is the right fly, shyly hidden alongside a great many... wrong flies.

When the hatch is on, be it mayflies, caddis, or hoppers we typically come prepared. By that I mean we have a great number of just one or two fly patterns carefully crafted to exactly match the hatch.

After all if we are here to fish a #18 crippled blue wing olive dun then why burden down the box with a bunch of nymphs, streamers, and other superfluous flies that we undoubtedly will not need. This makes picking the right fly easy. You can do it with your eyes closed. How clever we seem as we confidently pluck the first fly out the box and lay it on the water. A perfect match for today's hatch. Now it's hard to build a legend that way since you're expected to catch fish. "I had a great day, and why not, I had a box full of the right flies; anybody could do it". We pull a nice trout from the hordes of feeding fish, hold it briefly and return it to the water then go for another. But it's a hollow victory, and will not establish your uniqueness or greatness among fly-fishers. However we should note here that the trade-off for easy success often masks the opportunity for dismal failure. Trout are notorious for doing the unexpected and it is a feeling akin to despair as your perfectly matched fly drifts among the naturals and is steadfastly refused by every trout in the river and you swear even the chubs are snickering. A clammy sick feeling spreads over you as you look into your fly box and see fifty more flies, just exactly like the one the trout are ignoring. Fifty more exact copies of: the wrong fly. At these times it's best to feign sickness or suddenly remember some previous engagement and get off the water as fast as possible since having fifty wrong flies during a great hatch might lead to thoughts of filling your waders with water and walking through the deepest hole you can find.

So when there is no hatch there are no rules for us to follow. Today we make our

own rules. Today we are the masters of our fate and we approach the water armed with a plethora of flies; a veritable cornucopia of fur, feathers, and synthetics. And these are not just any flies, oh no, these are the special ones held in reserve for days just like this. They are often flies tied during long winter months when we are obsessed with what John Gierach calls "a senseless act of artistry". Big ugly bunny streamers and rubber legged bugs. Epoxy coated synthetic monsters that resemble a cross between a muskrat and a tarantula. Or we may have dainty #24 wisps of a fly with just a hint of vermilion sparkle floss that a human would need a magnifying glass to see, but of course we know it could hold the power to unlock that uncontrollable urge to attack in a legendary three-foot trout. Maybe the right fly today is a Chernobyl Frog or an elegant emerger made of the rarest musk oxen beard, or an assortment of parts from old flies now re-assembled and resurrected like Frankenstein's monster. An army of flies crafted in fits of artistic passion, during which the light of truth illuminated our vice. And in that light we knew, on this cold winter's night that months from now this would be the right fly. And our boxes contain all of these marvels of fly tying science and more.... much more.

Because we knew there would be no easy hatch to match today, we came prepared with every possible incarnation of the right fly. Our vests bulge with two or three or even four boxes filled to overflowing to cover every conceivable situation. But today, at this hour, in this spot, right now, which one of this multitude is the

right fly? We stare into each box, hoping the right fly will call out to us; "put me in coach." Our hand moves from fly to fly hoping for some electric tingle that will signal that this is the right fly. We hesitate at the eight-inch wounded smelt pattern, but our hand wanders to the green-butt, bead-headed, rubber-legged, wooly monster. We pass on to the small delicately crafted, highly detailed crawfish pattern tied last January in a fit a creative boredom. We almost take the crawfish out of the box but then suddenly move back to the smelt pattern. Did we feel something there? Is this the right fly? Or is the right fly still at home in a box we absentmindedly left behind? How can we know which is the right fly? Perhaps we cannot.

Those of you familiar with basic physics will remember Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principal. In 1927 German physicist Werner Heisenberg discovered one of the principal mysteries of quantum mechanics, the domain of the sub-atomic world, which states that we cannot know both the location and momentum of an atomic particle such as an electron. Not because we lack the technology to know both the position and momentum, but because it is fundamentally impossible to know both simultaneously. We cannot simultaneously know both of these parameters, even in principal. A sub-atomic particle does not have both a position and momentum at the same time. It remains one of the most bizarre facts of the scientific world. Because everything, including fish and flies are made from sub-atomic particles I would like to extrapolate a corollary to Heisenberg's

principal, which I like to call Crowley's Uncertainty Principal, which states; "It is impossible to know the location of a big trout and the right fly at the same time."

The more certain we are of one, the less certain we are of the other. While we may put the right fly into the right location it is akin to the domain of particle physics; strictly a matter of probabilities. Luck. We may get lucky, but we can't know for sure. Crowley's Uncertainty Principal forbids you from knowing with certainty, which fly to cast and where to cast it.

Even if by the laws of chance we do select the right fly, how can we know the right location to cast it? If we don't catch a fish in the first three spots we fish, how do we know if we had the right fly in the wrong spot or vice versa? Should we change the fly or keep on fishing it? What would have happened if we had fished the last hole with a different fly, perhaps the right fly? We open our fly box and wait for the Oracle-of-the-Box to speak to us and sometimes we are sure it has told us to change the fly. But then after a few more passes doubt fills our mind and we wonder again; is it the fly

or the location? Did I change the fly too soon? Heaven forbid; did I take the right fly off? Again, the Uncertainty Principal maintains you can never know for sure.

At the end of the day we may have had some success, and maybe not. But often it is not the day we made our legend. The Uncertainty Principal has kept the legendary trout from our grasp and has reduced us to the statistical average angler. We've either had good day or a slow day, but there will be no cover shots on national fly-fishing publications for today's effort. Either way we chalk it up to experience and remember that big fish are not the reason we do this. We do it not because it's easy, but because it's hard and we enjoy the challenge and we love the rivers and what we learned today will manifest itself at the fly tying vise tomorrow. At the end of the day, back at the car, you shed your waders and your vest of magic flies and when your rod has been carefully stowed away, your buddies inevitable ask; "Did you catch the big one?" You just smile and reply; "Naw, I didn't have the right fly."



www.madriveroutfitters.com
Secure Online Shopping!
Free Shipping on orders
over \$25.00!

Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

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	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

Gone Fishin' !

www.ncff.net

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

