

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 18 Issue 10

June 2005

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President's Column

We have come to the end another fine season of fly tying, fly fishing and friendship. Looking back on the past year, I see a club that is stronger, more vibrant and has more to offer to the casual member and expert alike. Looking ahead to next year, I am confident it will only get better.

I hand over the reigns to Dick Erickson who will be our next President. Dick's enthusiasm, drive and ingenuity will only serve to make us stronger and broaden the scope of North Coast Fly Fishers. Please join me in congratulating Dick in his new position and offering your support.

We, as a board set our sites high at the beginning of this year and, although we could not accomplish everything we set out to do, we did accomplish a great deal. For this I would like to personally thank each and every member of my board of directors. They worked tirelessly with little or no recognition throughout the year to make this club a more enjoyable experience for all.

I can not stress enough the amount of time, effort, blood, sweat and antacids that go into managing this club. I could fill several newsletters with all of the board's accomplishments. I'll try to resist the urge and instead focus on several high points.

- The Expo was another huge success. Word is spreading quickly throughout not only the region but indeed the country about the success of this event. This is our premier event and allows us to provide the type of programs that we have all come to enjoy. Having said this, it has become clear that we need to find other ways to fund our club so we are not completely dependent on the Expo for our cash flow.
- We have improved, and may be expanding, the Beginner Fly Tying program. Also, the Favorite Fly Tier program continues to showcase the great tiers we have in our club.
- Our speakers this year were fantastic. Educational and entertaining, they touched on a variety of subjects both regional and national.

- NCFE made the change to Charter Club Status. This step though seemingly just administrative will actually help to strengthen and preserve the club in the future.
- We began the difficult process of creating budgets for all of our activities. It has proved to be a very challenging task. When completed early next season, the budgets should allow us, to truly know what it takes to fund the club and make it easier for future boards to run the club and manage its assets.
- The Ideas program was initiated to give the membership an avenue for input on the club and ways to possibly improve it. We received many creative ideas. The Ideas Committee will have recommendations for the incoming board at the start of the next season.
- Outings and special events continue to improve and expand. All reports from Andy Setlock's 3rd annual outing in Pennsylvania were very positive. This continues to be an outstanding day of fishing and fun. We hope to build on this for next year with several more things in the works. You will also see inside that we are having the kids outing again thanks to George Klein and George Vosmik.

By far, the most important and impressive part of this club is its members. You are the greatest asset we have. Many of you have generously offered your time, talent and ideas for the benefit of the club with no thought of recognition. I thank each and everyone of you for making this an enjoyable and educational year for me. It was truly a privilege and honor to be President of this wonderful and impressive club.

Doug Crouch

Doug Crouch
President (Soon to be Past President),
North Coast Fly Fishers



The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc (NCF) 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, NCF. All inquiries should be addressed to:
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The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCF) 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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- Director:
 Connie Hodge(440) 286-1216
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 Lenny Jagoda(440) 259-5382
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Clip art courtesy Dave Whitlock,
www.davewhitlock.com.

June Membership Meeting

Annual Membership Picnic

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

5:30 P.M. Until Dark

***Helen Hazen Wyman Park
 Lake County Metroparks.***

(Directions below)

Bring a covered dish or your favorite dessert to share with all. The club will supply Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, condiments & pop.

George Vosmik will provide a casting clinic for any kids who attend. George is a FFF Certified Casting Instructor, and this is a great chance to get a free lesson in a true clinic environment.

Directions: Take I-90 to Rt. 44 and go north to the Rt. 84 / Mentor / Painesville exit. Turn right (east) on Rt. 84 for 2.5 miles to the five-way intersection of Rt. 84, Rt. 86, Bank Street, State Street and Cummings Rd. Make a sharp right onto Rt. 86 (south). Helen Hazen Wyman is about a mile down the road on the left (east) side at the bottom of the hill.

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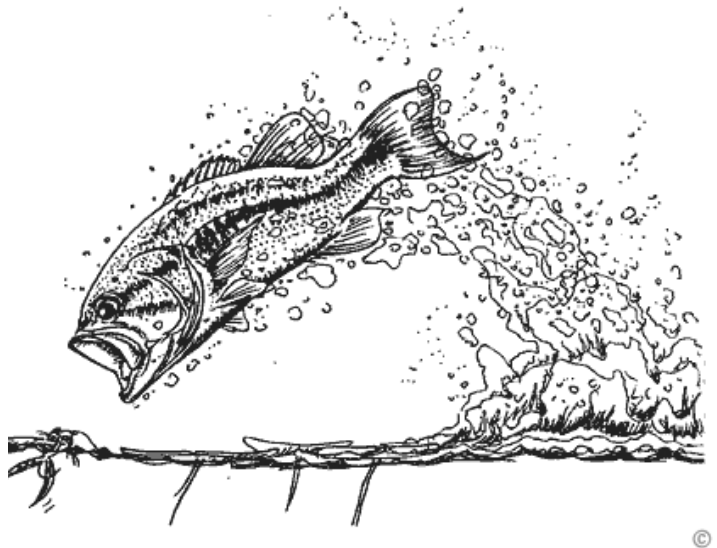
KIDS FISH!!!

On June 30, 2005 the Second Annual Kids fishing day will be held at a private pond on the Estate of George Klein, a friend of the club. This is located near Bath, Ohio.

Directions to the Klein's will be furnished at the June Members Meeting. The first 10 children aged 8 to 14 who sign up for the event will be eligible to enjoy a days fly fishing for Bluegills and Bass. Lunch will be furnished at the site. A parent will have to accompany each child at the event. No parent no child! We will begin with a casting clinic for all the participants.

A casting clinic will be held at the June meeting that may help those newcomers wishing to attend the Bass & Bluegill Fishing day. George Vosmik, a Registered Casting Instructor of the Federation of Flyfishers, will hold the clinic at 6:30 on June 1. Some rods will be available for the clinic, but your own or your parent's rod would be preferred.

Questions? Call George Vosmik at **440.503.8993**.



No Tail Pheasant Tail

by: Joe Valencic

I hope most of you reading this article have been in a similar situation as me, when the bluegills are biting like crazy and your fly is getting destroyed from being chewed on by so many fish. This is yet another one of those stories.

After trying several foam flies and traditional dry flies this particular day, the fish wanted to feed just below the surface, and their overwhelming choice was a #14 Flashback Pheasant Tail nymph. As the fly would hit the water the fish were on it like white on rice. In a very short amount of time the fly was losing its eye appeal (at least for me!) and soon it's tail fibers were completely gone. When the last fiber disappeared I figured it was time to tie on a fresh fly, but I gave it one more cast just to see what would happen. You guessed it! Tail or no tail, the gills were on the feed and that fly caught seven more fish before I retired it for a fresh one.



We've all heard it time and again that we tie flies more for how they look to us, rather than how they look to the fish. This day that adage rang true and I learned that a Pheasant Tail Nymph doesn't necessarily need a tail! I wonder how many other steps I can leave off of my flies to save time...?

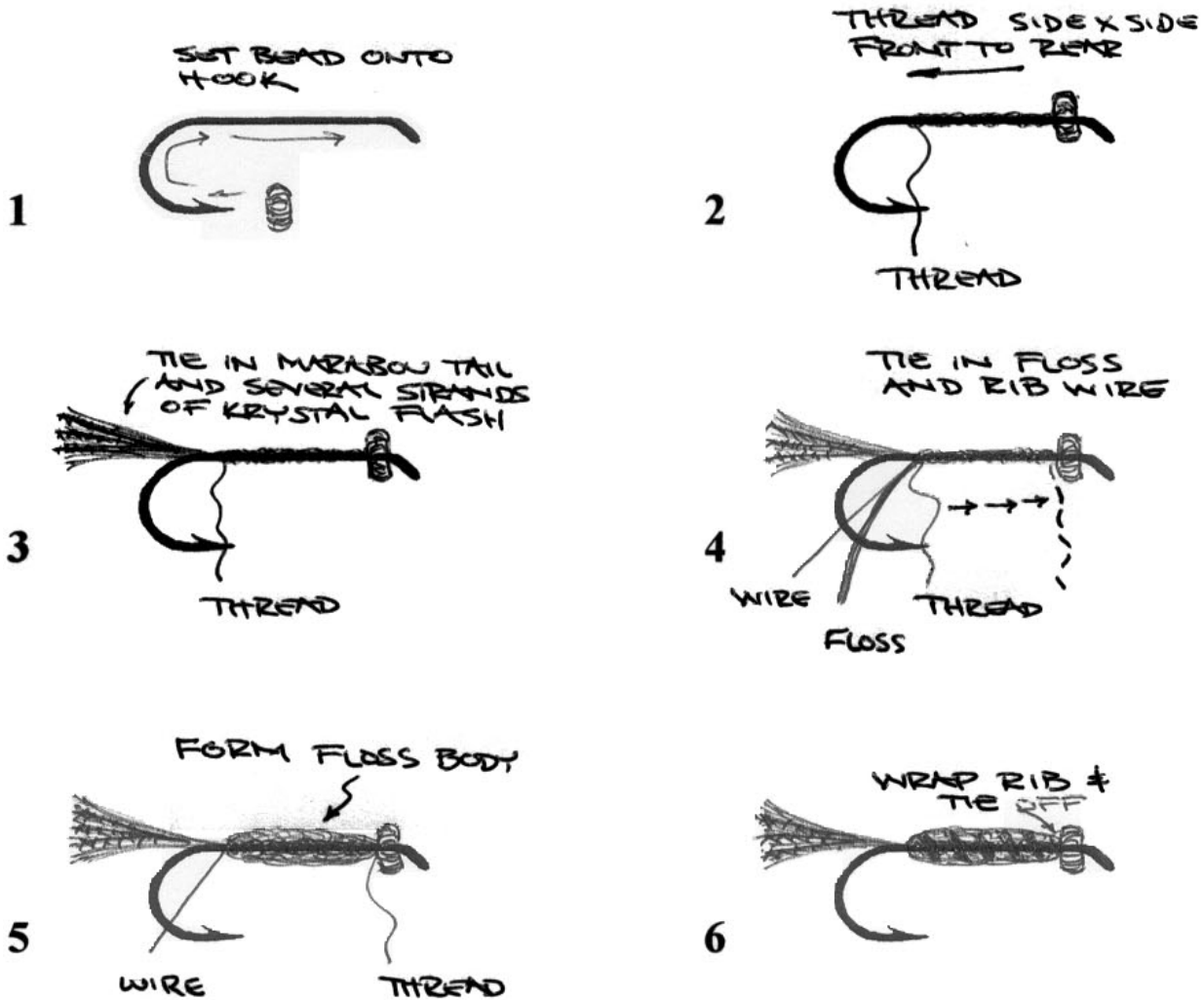
Have a great summer and remember to take a kid fishing.

NCFF Favorite Fly

BH Grub Tied by Mike Klonowski

Hook	Mustad 3906B Size 10-14	Thread	Black 6/0
Head	1/8" Bead	Tail	Black Marabou & Krystal Flash
Body	Black Floss	Rib	Gold Wire
Head	Finish behind bead		

Body Weight Optional .015-.025 Lead Wire



NOTE: A VARIETY OF COLOR COMBINATIONS
MAY BE USED

Donald R. Van Buren 5/05

Take a Kid Fishing?

by Don Van Buren

I'm sure you have heard this comment more than several times or have seen it in print recently. It makes sense and is a good investment for the future of our sport. Lets take a different slant on this phrase and reword it to say, "Take a Father or Grand Father Fishing!" My daughter supplied the inspiration for this article and the take off on the title.

The last time that she and I had an opportunity to fish together she was not even a teenager yet. Along the way, continuing her education, working, raising a family, taking care of the home front, etc., all seemed to take priority. Meanwhile my three sons would on occasion get to spend a little fishing time with Dad, while their wives did what my daughter did to take care of their home front.

My daughter sprung the fishing trip on me by asking "How about we do something different for Fathers Day?" Needless to say I jumped at the opportunity to revisit good times fishing with my daughter. Since her offer of a take a day to fish together was made, some funny things came back to me, I think they call it "Flashback!" Like the time she nearly knocked me into the pond when a frog jumped out of the cattails and into the pond, her shriek and reaction knocked me off balance and almost into the pond with the frog.

I began her fishing experience with a spinning rod and worms. Yeaks! Ugh! No way! Etc., etc. I started out by baiting the hook for her, but we all know how fast bluegills can attack a worm and keep a parent pretty busy taking them off and rebaiting the hook, etc., only to repeat the process over and over. This had to stop! So I said look, I will show you how to bait the hook, etc., then you are on your own, as Dad would like to catch a few fish also! The memory of her laying on

her tummy and elbows on the dock attempting to get a non-cooperative worm onto her hook is still vivid to this day. Finally after what seemed like an eternity she was successful and proceeded to catch another bluegill on her own.

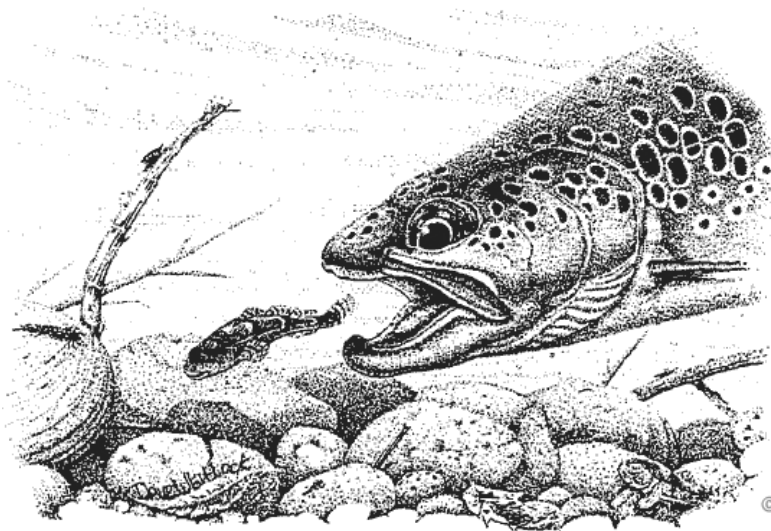
Now came the next part teaching her how to remove the hook and release the fish, but just like the baiting she got the idea and technique down pat. The rest is history as she was able to out fish my sons, and was not too bashful about letting them know it.

Funny how history repeats itself. Her husband laughed and said "You... going fishing?" Before she could respond my wife chimed in and supported her with the comment, "of all of our children she was the best fisherman." End of taunting, end of teasing, it was a slam-dunk for the ladies.

A final funny note. My daughter had to asked me where, and how to buy a fishing license, that's how long it has been since she last went fishing. The last time she fished she did not need a fishing license because of her age.

I am truly looking forward to my upcoming Fathers Day gift of getting to go fishing again with my daughter. No, there will be no kids, husband or anyone else invited to go, it will be just my daughter and me.

So kids, make your dad or grandfather happy and take them fishing on Fathers Day. Oh, by the way, my daughter doesn't know it yet, but she will be using a fly rod this time and I am looking forward to teaching her. Who knows, maybe she'll get interested in fly tying next!



Take A Wounded Warrior Fishing

by John Colburn – Phly Tyer, The Soldiers' Home – Washington, DC, courtesy FFF ClubWire

Thanks to television, we all know the latest count of service men and women who have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. What the TV reporters don't tell us is that at least ten are wounded for every one killed, and of the nearly 20,000 wounded, many have lost arms or legs or suffered wounds that will prevent them from using or limit the use of their hands or feet — often for the rest of their lives.

These wounded warriors are in military and veterans' hospitals across the country, many of them far from their homes and families, and being stuck in a hospital for months of rehabilitation is a fate they don't deserve. Watching TV, reading, playing cards or video games, or sleeping can get old pretty fast, and trips away from the hospital are pretty hard to arrange because of the limited staff available.

Here's where fly fishers can really be useful in the rehabilitation of these wounded warriors: Go to the nearest military or veterans' hospital and talk to the rehabilitation and MWR (morale-welfare-recreation) staff and offer to take one or two out for a day or half a day on fishing trip. Find out what limitations the men and women have—what they are capable of doing and what you can do to make the outing a pleasant one.

Don't plan on going to your favorite mountain stream because wheelchairs, crutches, and artificial legs don't work very well on the rough terrain along most streams. Find a lake or pond where the warriors can get to the bank and fish for bluegills and other panfish and maybe bass or trout.

Plan on spending a little time teaching them to cast—nothing special, just a simple

pick up and lay down cast of 35 or 40 feet will get the fly to where the fish are on most any water. Save the double hauls and fancy casts for later.

You'll probably have to furnish the fishing outfit, but your fly fishing club may have rods and reels that you can borrow. An 8 or 9 foot, 5 or 6 weight rod and a single action reel loaded with a weight forward floating line, a leader, and backing; a spool of tippet material, and a small box of flies will suffice for starting. A nipper or fingernail clipper, a forceps, and a small towel for hand wiping will complete the outfit. Remember, you're not going to try to set any world record or catch enough fish to feed everyone—you're just going to let the warriors have fun and maybe catch a few fish.

Now for the wounded who can't get out and go fishing, you might start a fly tying class. Fly tying can have definite value in the rehabilitation of those who have suffered hand and arm injuries. The fine motor skills used in fly tying may help in recovering the use of the hand and arm. Talk to the rehab staff and maybe give them a demonstration so they can see what's involved.

The Introduction to Fly Tying booklet published by the Federation of Fly Fishers is a good, inexpensive text to use. It's available through the FFF web site <http://www.fffcatalog.com/> for \$2.00 plus shipping. Your FFF club can get quantities of the booklet at a discount.

The tools and materials needed to tie the flies in the booklet are relatively inexpensive. If you explain to your local fly tackle shop owner what you planning, you may be able to get a reduced price or even a donation.

The vise for most warriors can be one of the simpler ones similar to the old faithful Thompson A. However, an inexpensive rotary vise like the Dan vise or Griffin's Odyssey might be needed in some cases. C-clamp vises will probably suffice, but pedestal based vises will allow almost any flat surface to be used for tying.

The other tying tools: scissors, whip finisher, hair stacker, hackle pliers, and bobbin should be good but not fancy. Bobbin threaders can be the "dental floss threaders" from the local drug store—three bucks buys a lifetime supply for several people, and a bodkin is just a fairly stout needle in a handle, preferably one that is not round so it won't roll off the tying bench.

Get sufficient materials so that your students will be able to practice tying between class sessions and provide each student with his or her own packet of materials. They may not be able to get together for tying sessions. Also, provide a container for all the materials and tools because storage space is often limited in hospital rooms.

Remember the "KISS" principle in teaching fly fishing and tying to these wounded warriors — Keep It Simple, Stupid. You will be working with people who have a full load of difficulties and trauma; don't add to that load. You want to give them something to do to relieve the monotony of the hospital and teach them a hobby that they can enjoy the rest of their lives.

Regardless of your opinions about the current or previous conflicts, don't burden these young men and women with those. Share your pleasure of fly fishing and tying with them and let them know that you care.

The One-Time Lesson

by Gretchen Yearous, *From The Loop Winter 1997, courtesy FFF ClubWire*

My fishing club, the San Diego Flyfishers, teaches casting every Sunday, free to the general public. Most of the private lessons I do are with a student who wants a tune-up or a first lesson before going on that dream trip. Whether it is a tune-up, a request for help with casting sink tips, shooting heads, or dry flies, the basics prevail in all styles. I think my role as a teacher (especially in these types of requests) is to give students simple guidelines for self-check when they are out in the wild, away from tutelage. In order to help the memory retain more of the basics, I invented the acronym "STEW". Your casting is really in a STEW when you forget to follow the basics.

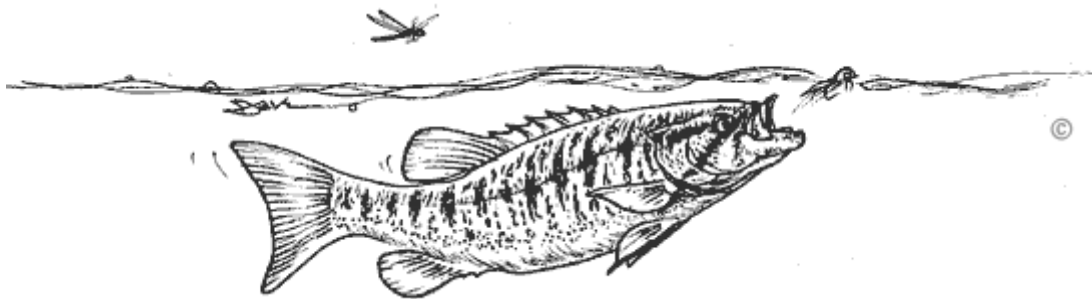
S = SLACK — check to see if you are starting your cast high, such as 11:00, instead of lowering the rod tip to 9:00, pulling in the slack and then starting the back cast. Too much slack prevents proper rod loading.

TE = TEMPO, RHYTHM, TIMING, PAUSE — practice different pause times to find the best performance relative to line length and rod design. Speed up and slow down the cast. Note: this is when tailing loops may form. Keep the stroke smooth, with the acceleration stage between 10:00 and 1:00 on the back cast.

W = Wrist — what is the wrist doing? Is the thumb pointed parallel to the ground at the top of the back cast? Are you flipping the wrist like a flimsy towel or is the wrist under control, stopping the thumb at midnight and completing the cast with a firm forward stop? If you are too wristy, try energizing the rod using mostly the forearm instead of mostly the wrist.

Most first-time students aren't ready for heavy terminology, so a quick acronym helps. The more experienced student may benefit from relating the elements of STEW to rod design, engineering, physics, line trajectory, loop, arc, line speed, etc. A couple of analogies combined with STEW bring my best results. I feel I have accomplished one of my goals when the student realizes what it is to let the rod do the work. An easy visual analogy that works for me is to compare operating a gun with casting a fly rod. They both have to be loaded, and aimed at a target. The gun fires the bullet, just as the rod shoots the line after the caster has used proper technique to load and unload their rod. Steering a car is similar: oversteer and crash. Oversteer your fly rod and pile up your line.

John Vanderhoof, who has long been involved with international casting tournaments, stresses to instructors that they should have a very large bag of analogies. This is especially true when you have only one hour to achieve groundbreaking results.



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Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

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' ! – Have a safe and fun summer.

September 7	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker to be determined	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
September 14	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

www.ncff.net

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