

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 18 Issue 1

September 2004

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President's Column

Welcome to another fine season of fly tying, fly fishing and friendship. Looking ahead to our 18th year, I see a club that is vibrant and exciting with a lot to offer no matter what your interests.

For those who are members because they like to tie flies, we have several programs to offer. We have Beginning Fly Tying, Favorite Fly Tying and demonstrations from some of the best regional and national tiers. These programs cover all skill levels. From those who have never tied a fly to those who are experts.

For those who prefer the fishing aspect of our sport, we have some wonderful and informative presentations, again, by some of the best regional and national authorities on fly fishing. We also have been working on increasing the scope and frequency of our outings with the help of some key members. We started with an outing for trout on Pennsylvania's Oil Creek and several of its tributaries. A little closer to home, we have continued with steelhead and small mouth bass. We even had an all-kids outing this past spring.

Then there are those in our club who, apparently, do not have enough to do at work and at home. These wonderful people want nothing

more than to volunteer their time and talents to the club. I am fortunate to have a board of directors full of these folks. By the way, if you are one of these types and we have not talked, we need to! Feel free to call me day or night.

For those into fly fishing and tying shows, we have two. Our premiere show is our Expo in January. This is fast becoming a destination show and a standard by which other shows are judged. It has also added respectability and validity to our club and has helped us in recruiting some excellent speakers for our monthly meetings. In addition to the Expo, we also have our conclave in February that benefits our host, the Lake Metro Parks.

There are those who just like talking about fly fishing and fly tying. For these folks we offer some of the best fishing stories ever crafted.

In all seriousness, this club has a lot to offer. From eight to eighty there is something for everyone and I encourage you to take full advantage of the coming year.

Doug Crouch

Doug Crouch
President, North Coast Fly Fishers

Holiday Dinner Plans Finalized (Almost)

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) Holiday Dinner will take place on Wednesday, December 1, 2004 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Croatian Lodge Party Center, 34900 Lake Shore Blvd. In Eastlake, Ohio. This year's event will feature Jack Gartside as our featured fly tier and guest speaker. We will also have a Holiday Raffle, NCFF 5th Annual Favorite Fly Plate Raffle (members only), 50/50 and our popular Fly Exchange.

Since this event is our regular monthly meeting, there is no admission charge for current NCFF members. There will not be Beginner Fly Tying at this event, but we will have our Favorite Fly Tying Program lead by Robert Prescott for all who wish to tie that evening. The lighting is much better for tying here than our past facility, and there is seating for 280 people in this ballroom.

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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
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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.

September Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, September 1st 2004
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio*

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

*Guest Speaker
Joe Cornwall*

*The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance
8:00 - 10:00 PM*

NCFF Cloisonné Pins

The Board of Directors had commissioned a cloisonne NCFF lapel pin as an ongoing fundraiser project and for a way for members to display their affiliation with the club. These four-color pins are 1" round and are now available at the monthly meetings for \$5 each, or by mail order for an additional \$1.50 to cover shipping and handling. The pins are pictured on the website home page at www.ncff.net, and there is a link to the Order Form that anyone can print out and mail with their check to the club's P.O. Box. Delivery is expected to take 1-2 weeks from when we receive your check.

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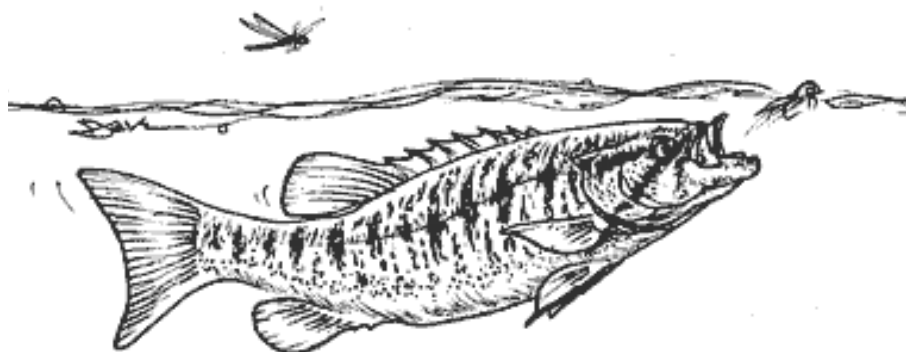
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September's Speaker: Joe Cornwall of The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance

Joseph Cornwall was born and raised on the South Shore of Massachusetts where he started fishing in both fresh and salt water at the age of four with his grandfather. Joe took up fly-fishing by age 12 and never looked back. A Charter Member of the Cape Cod chapter of Trout Unlimited and active member today with The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance, the Madmen chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishermen, the Buckeye Fly Fishers and the International Game Fish Association, Joe makes his home in Cincinnati, Ohio. While Joe's heart belongs to Smallmouth bass, he can be found fishing for everything from bowfin to bluegill and trout to carp wherever there is water and opportunity.

Joe currently serves as Vice President of The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance and is Editor of the Ohio Smallmouth News and Webmaster of The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance web site.

Joe will be tying the Simple Shad and discussing neutral buoyancy fly fishing techniques. He will also tie a Foxee Redd Clouser, one of the most consistently productive Smallmouth bass flies in his kit. Joe will have a short PowerPoint presentation with lots of good color photographs of chunky smallmouths and interesting smallmouth food.



Favorite Fly Schedule for 2004-2005

by: Don Van Buren

Thanks to all who volunteered as tiers for our Favorite Fly program for this new club year. Every month is filled with a different tier and we can all look forward to some great flies, tips and stories for the next nine months. This program remains popular and continues to prosper because of the dedication of our volunteers, and we are grateful for their willingness to share their talent with our fellow members.

Here's the schedule:

2004

September 1, 2004	James Howell
October 6, 2004	Holly Freedman
November 3, 2004	Adam Pawlowski
December 1, 2004	Robert Prescott

2005

January 5, 2005	Michael Crouch
February 2, 2005	George Shuffert
March 2, 2005	Frank Frisina
April 6, 2005	Don Van Buren
May 4, 2005	Michael Klonowski

Holiday Dinner Plans Finalized (Almost) - *continued from front*

Dinner will be served buffet style and the menu details will be finalized by the October Taut Line. I can say for certain that there will be beef & chicken (of some style) with salad, vegetable, bread & butter, coffee & tea for beverage and home made strudel for dessert. A cash bar will be available inside the ballroom. The food is excellent at this facility. If you like home style cooking, you'll love their food.

We will begin taking reservations (with payment) on October 6th at the monthly meeting. A reservation form will be in the October Taut Line and on the website if you wish to mail in your payment. Dinner reservations are \$20 per person for NCFF members in good standing, and \$30 for non-members. Non-members wishing to attend this event without purchasing a dinner can do so for \$15. (\$10 of the non-member fees can be applied to a NEW NCFF & FFF membership purchased thru the January 2005 monthly meeting.) The Croatian

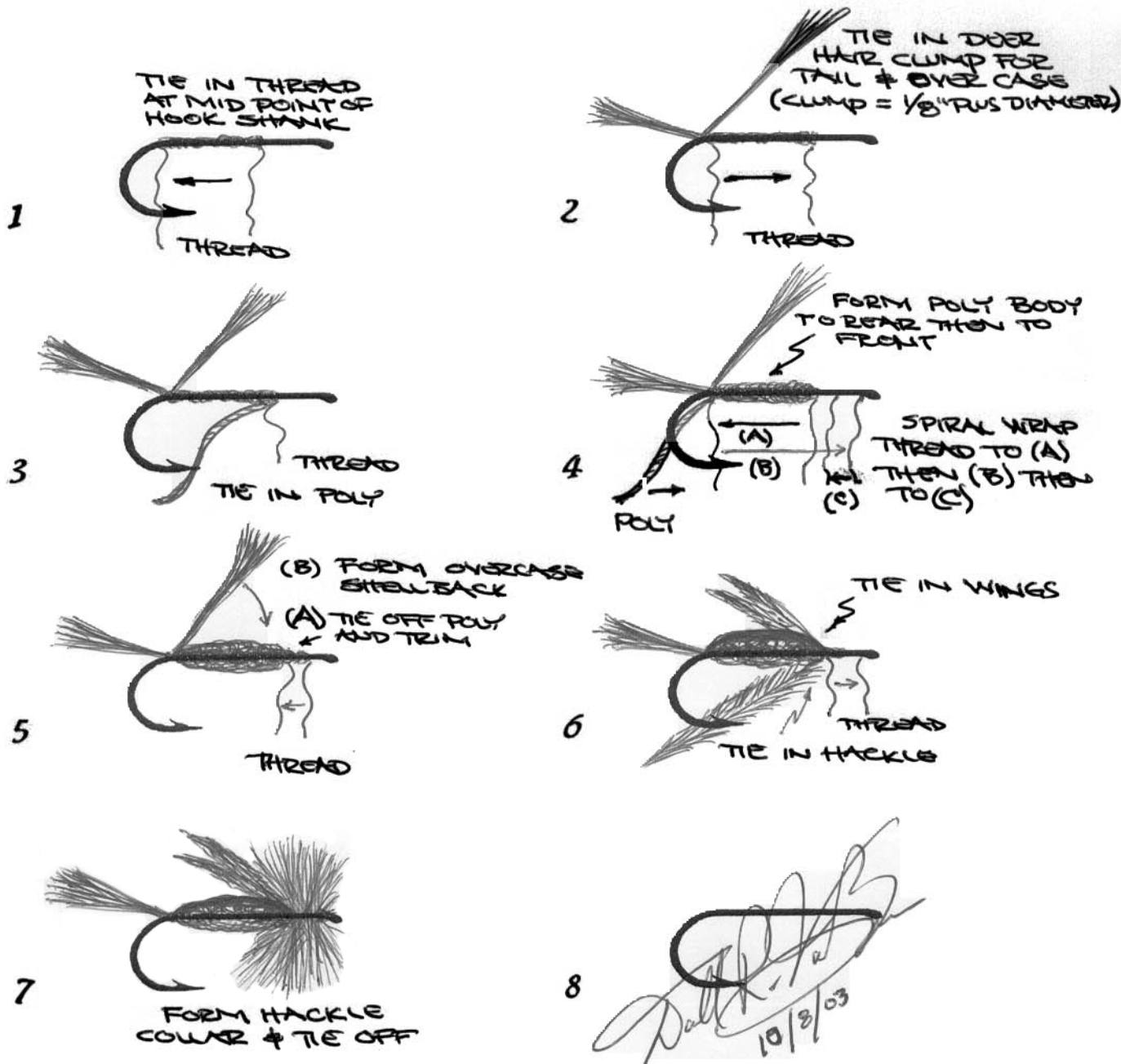
Lodge is a private venue not affiliated with Lake Metroparks, and all walk-ins will be charged \$15 to defray the cost of our speaker. Dinner reservations must be paid in full by November 10, 2004 ... no exceptions! We are required to turn in our final count, with payment, on November 15th. Sorry, but no refunds will be issued after November 3rd for any reason, and member purchased dinner reservations cannot be transferred to non-members without paying the additional \$10. Reserved tables are available for groups of 8. Full payment for all parties must accompany your table request.

This event will be promoted to other fishing clubs, fly shops and outdoor groups. If you know of a group that may wish to attend, please contact George Shuffert at (440) 272-5449 or Joe Valencic at (440) 463-0571. George or Joe will contact the group and provide information to them.

NCFF Favorite Fly

"Abe's Poly Humpy" Tied By John M. Lincoln

Hook	Mustad 3366 size 6	Thread	Black 6/0 Black
Tail	Deer Body Hair Tips	Body	Polypropylene Varn (Poly)
Shellback	Deer Body Hair	Wing	Hen Back Tips to match Hackle
Hackle	Dry Fly Light Dun or Ginger	Head	Finish Dry Fly Style



Van Buren recipient of FFF/GLC Achievement Award

by: Joe Valencic

At the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Great Lakes Council (GLC) on June 19, 2004 in Roscommon, MI, Ohio Sub Council President and North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFE) Past President, Don Van Buren, received the 2004 FFF/GLC Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the goals of the Federation of Fly Fishers – Conserving, Restoring & Educating thru fly fishing. Don's work in the creation of the Ohio Sub Council and guiding the formation of a new FFF Charter Club in Avon, Ohio, Firelands Fly Fishers, were just two of the many contributions Don has made over the years to advance FFF's goals. As NCFE Past President, Don remains active within the organization, primarily focusing his efforts on educational opportunities and mentoring volunteers.

Along with the award plaque presented by GLC President Jim Schramm was a three-reel set of Harris Solitude fly reels (II, III & IV) that were presented by Craig A. Harris, President of Harris Reel Company and sponsor of this annual award.

Not knowing he was going to receive this award, this was the only time I have ever seen Don totally speechless as his name was



Left to right, Jim Schramm, Don Van Buren & Craig Harris

announced and he was called to the front of the room. As a man who always publicly recognizes the achievements of others, it was nice to see his accomplishments recognized by the Council. Please join me in congratulating Don on this well deserved honor.

Don is retired and lives with his wife, Darlene, in Claridon, Ohio.

Valencic is new GLC VP Communications

At the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Great Lakes Council (GLC) on June 19, 2004 in Roscommon, MI, North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFE) Communications Director, Joseph Valencic, was elected as GLC Vice President of Communications, replacing Patrick Korth who moved out of the Council boundaries to take a new job.

In this new role Joe will be responsible for publication of the Council's newsletter, the GLC FLYLINE, as well as managing the Council's Internet website, www.fffglc.org as Webmaster. Additionally, Valencic will represent the GLC on the National FFF Communications Committee.

Joe has served as Editor of the GLC FLYLINE for the past two years and will continue in that role. He has also contributed his expertise to the Council website since its beginning, and will be working on expanding the information base for visitors to the website. Joe also serves as Director of Communications for the recently created Ohio Sub Council, is Chairman of our annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo' for the third year in a row, and is managing the NCFE Speaker's Acquisition Program for 2004-2005.

Valencic is quoted as saying; "The experience I've gained during the past three years at the local level on the NCFE Board

of Directors, and my part in the formation of the Ohio Sub Council in 2003, have prepared me for this opportunity at the Council level. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities in this new role."

When not fly fishing or involved in his volunteer activities surrounding FFF, Joe is the Vice President and General Manager of Lakeside Wire & Iron Company in Painesville, Ohio, a specialty fabricator of custom wire mesh products for industrial, commercial & institutional facilities. Joe lives in Mentor, Ohio with his wife, Linda.

Expo 2005 Main Show Floor Sold Out!

by: Joe Valencic, Expo 2005 Chairman

On April 26, 2004 the first offering for vendor space was sent to a large group of vendors in five states and Ontario. On July 20th, just 85 days later, every vendor space was sold out on the main showroom floor. Additional vendor space is being offered in the hallway surrounding the ballroom of the Croatian Lodge for vendors who still want to be part of Expo. The complete list of participating vendors is on the Expo website at www.expo2005.ncff.net along with the floor plan of the new venue.

As well as increasing the vendor space by more than 70%, we have improved circulation with 12' and 14' wide aisles. This was a major issue at our first two Expos because of the overwhelming crowds moving through narrow aisles. We also have a dedicated parking lot that can accommodate 500 cars (remember the parking fun at the first two Expos?)

Coming back as a celebrity tier to Expo 2005 will be the always enjoyable Dennis "Rivergod" Potter, Julie Nielsen and at least 20 tiers representing at least 12 FFF Clubs in four states. Also, we just received confirmation that Jeff "Bear" Andrews will be a celebrity tier for the first time at this event. You may know Bear as an innovative tier and the creator of the "Blind Bugger Open" where tiers are required to tie a woolly bugger while blindfolded (try that at home sometime).

We're still booking tiers and looking for a FFF Club to perform all-day net building demonstrations. The Red Cedar Fly Fishers of Okemos, MI will demonstrate graphite rod building and the Mohican Fly Fishers from Mansfield, OH will be making furred leaders throughout the day.

It's been a very busy summer for yours truly, and I'm extremely gratified that we are so far ahead of the curve this soon. This speaks well of what we do as a club by sponsoring an event that is both educational and entertaining. I'll have more details and updates in the October Taut Line. Stay tuned!

Unintentional Curves

by Gary A. Borger (From the Loop – Fall 1997)

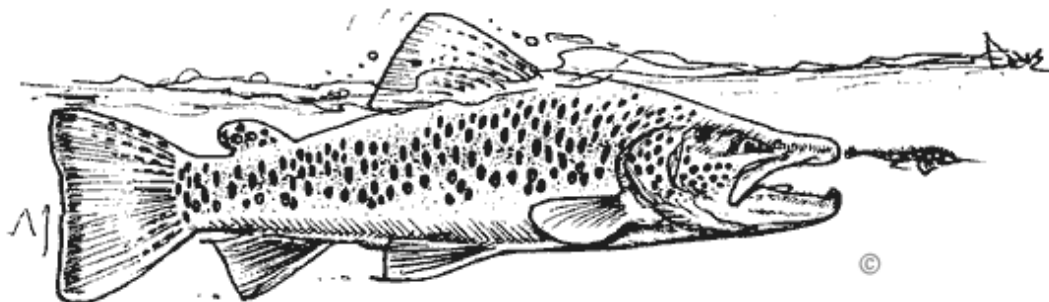
courtesy FFF ClubWire

One way to make a curve cast is to roll the wrist inward or outward at the end of the casting stroke so that the rod tip describes a "J" pathway (straight for the first part of the stroke and then hooked at the end). It's an effective and easily learned casting method. However, many casters unintentionally make curve casts on both the back stroke and forward stroke, robbing the cast of energy and directing it along a path not desired by the caster. This unintentional curving results from turning the wrist and/or arm outward on the back stroke and then inward on the forward stroke. The line curves to the angler's left (for a right-handed caster) on both back stroke and forward stroke.

Not only does this casting error reduce casting efficiency (and often tosses the fly into a tree situated well off to the angler's side), but it can be dangerous as well. Just try throwing shot with this tactic, or a big tarpon fly, or an epoxy minnow for pike, or a bass popper. Not fun when that big imitation digs a deep furrow across the back of your neck or imbeds itself firmly in your scalp.

A sloppy arm can be cured by having the student stand with the casting arm next to a wall and running through the casting motion in pantomime with the arm moving parallel to the wall. While a smoothly finished wall is ideal, a rough brick wall works great because it only takes one casting stroke (and a bunch of medical and legal bills) to cure the bad habit.

If the student twists the wrist only (a highly unusual situation) then have the student cast and watch his/her wrist — not the rod, not the line, not you — the WRIST. Have them say, "straight back" (such vocalization aids in the learning process). Very quickly a student can learn to control the movement of the hand and arm and correct the unintentional curves.



Replacing the Soles on your Wading Shoes

by Paul Johnston, *The Santiam Flycasters* – courtesy FFF ClubWire

During the short life of any wading shoe, eventually it becomes necessary to replace the felt sole of the shoe. To do this you generally glue a new sole on top of the existing sole. Soles come in two varieties: plain felt or felt with studs. If you're going to make the effort to replace/add new soles, you might as well make sure they have studs. Unfortunately, the instructions that come with most replacement sole packs do not give you enough detail in order to do the job right. 'Doing the job right' means having the soles last through a few seasons without them falling off. Having done it now twice (and failing the first time), I followed these instructions after talking with a number of experts on the subject.

What You'll Need:

- Felt Sole Replacement Kit (e.g., Korkers or other brand)
- 1 to 2 tubes of extra contact cement (they never give you enough in the kit)
- Rubber Mallet or hammer
- An extremely sharp and strong knife, or plenty of sharp razor blades
- Optional - Jig saw or hack saw
- Replacement Instructions

Important: follow these steps for one shoe at a time. If you already have studs in your existing sole, you may need to remove them or remove the entire sole before putting the new one on.

Clean your existing felt soles of any dirt/mud. This can usually be accomplished by using a wire brush to scrape the soles clean.

Place the new sole on the ground or work surface, felt side down. Place your wading shoe on the new sole so that your shoe is centered on the sole (i.e., the larger new sole extends beyond your existing sole all around). New soles are always larger than your existing soles, so its important to align the sole on the shoe before applying

the cement and cutting. If the new sole has studs, make sure that the studs fit within the boundary of your existing sole. Using a pen/pencil, trace the outline of your shoe on the new sole. This will be used later to align the new sole on the shoe.

If your wading shoe has an arch or a defined heel, you have to measure and cut the heel from the new sole. Pick up the new sole and draw a line across the sole at the point where the heel starts on your existing sole. It's important to make sure that the heel is cut to the right size and at the right location as your existing heel. With an extremely strong/sharp knife or a saw, cut the sole in two along the line you just drew. Note: felt soles are hard to cut, make it as straight as possible.

Apply a thin layer of cement to the existing felt sole to seal it. Wait at least 1 hour before moving to the next step. Note: you can apply the cement with a glue/epoxy brush, or just goop it onto the shoe and spread it evenly with the mouth of the cement tube (wipe off any excess cement around the mouth of the tube after this).

Apply one coat of cement evenly to both the existing felt sole and the non-felt side of the new sole. On the new sole, make sure that you apply the cement evenly within the boundary of the outline that you traced in Step 2 (don't put any cement outside of the boundary of the outline). Wait at least 30 minutes.

Apply another coat of cement evenly to both the existing felt sole and the non-felt side of the new sole. Wait about 20 minutes (until the cement is barely tacky, not too sticky).

Now it's time to place the new sole onto the existing sole. If you have a shoe with an arch or defined heel, then start with the heel. Starting at the center of the shoe, align the new heel with the existing heel based on the outline you trace previously. Important: make sure that the new

sole is aligned correctly because you only get one shot at this. Now firmly press the heel onto the existing heel, starting at the center of the shoe and pressing towards the end of the heel. Then firmly press the rest of the new sole onto the existing sole, starting at the center of the shoe and pressing towards the tip of the shoe.

Using a rubber mallet or hammer, tap the sole firmly starting at the center of the sole and tapping around the edges of the sole. To get a flat/firm surface to hammer against, you may need to place the shoe on the ground with the felt side up, and bend the ankle of the shoe to the side. Continue to tap the sole until the edges of the new sole are right up against the existing sole. The goal is to remove any bubbles in the cement and to make sure that there is little or no gap between the existing sole and the new sole. You may need to tap it firmly, and you may have to continue to tap the sole for one or two days after pressing the new sole onto the existing one to reduce the gap.

Let the contact cement harden for a minimum of 24 hours, then you can trim off the excess edge of the new sole. To trim off the excess, you need an extremely strong/sharp knife or razor blade. I ended up having to use an electric jig saw to trim off most of the excess. After removing most of the excess sole, use sharp razor blades to continue to trim off any excess and make the edge of the new sole flush with the old sole. Note: you will need a number of sharp razor blades because they go dull very quickly when cutting the felt sole.

Note: if there is still a gap left between the existing sole and the new sole, you can still tap the edge of the sole for one or two days after first pressing the new sole onto the existing sole. You should also let the cement harden for at least 24 hours before wading in a stream with the new soles.

Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

September 1	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Joseph Cornwall	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
September 8	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
October 6	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Les Ober	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
October 13	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
November 3	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Dennis Potter	Lake Farm Parks 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
November 10	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

www.ncff.net

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