

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



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September 2005

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The President's Line

by Dick Erickson

Joe Valencic and I have just returned from the Federation of Fly Fishers 40th Annual Conclave in Livingston, MT. While there, we were privileged to represent you in accepting this year's McKenzie Cup Award for outstanding contributions to the FFF by a club. Many commented that the award was well deserved, making us realize the high regard in which our club is held. Do we all appreciate how good a club we have?

From here we can take either of two basic directions – bask in the award and continue at the same level, or build on our successes and be an example club by greater contributions to FFF's objectives. While we do many things very well, I like the challenge of building to a higher level of excellence. To do that we need to fully commit ourselves to the FFF vision.

At its core, FFF works to promote excellence in the sport of fly fishing through education, as well as working to conserve sport fishing resources. North Coast Fly Fishers does a good job of fly fishing education through our monthly programs, beginner fly tying, favorite fly tying, Conclave, and Expo. There are some educational elements we could add to fill out our offerings. And, we are in communication with other metro park systems about introductory fly fishing pro-

grams. At the FFF conclave we became more aware of ways in which we can help FFF build its education programs.

We have the greatest opportunity for growth in conservation efforts. In the more developed landscape of our region, conservation may be best expressed in maintaining and developing fishing accessibility. We are looking for opportunities where we can make a contribution to resources conservation / fishing accessibility. Hopefully, this can include both funding and manpower. We want to begin with something modest, and then grow as we get a better handle on our capabilities. This can benefit us as well as the broader community.

It is also important that we have a good time in our club activities. We seek programs that are enjoyable as well as educational. And we want projects where we can enjoy working together. But, I think this is also one of those areas where an important life lesson applies: we get out of an activity in proportion to what we put into it.

Let's work together to make this a great and enjoyable year. Begin by reaching out and getting to know a member you don't know, particularly our new members.

PA Trout Outing

What makes a successful fishing event for you? A great setting? Good food? Good friends? Favorable weather? Oh yes, some fish?

On May 14 Andy Setlock set the standard for a great trout outing at his camp near Titusville, PA. Overcast weather did not diminish the beauty of the setting, and everyone present enjoyed the fellowship and an outstanding meal.

The group fished various locations on Caldwell Creek, Pine Creek and Oil Creek. The fish were few and far between, but that made for a lot of conversation trying to explain why!

Thank you to Andy and Adam Pawlowski and their wives, Jan and Marge, for their hard work to make it an enjoyable day. And, they also did their best on the things they couldn't control.



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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 7th 2005
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio

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

Guest Speaker
Bob Williams
Steelhead Strategies
8:00 - 10:00 PM

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Speaker's Program Schedule 2005-2006

by Jim Gavacs

Well it a new season for the NCFE and we have some good guest speakers lined up. While the entire schedule is not filled, here are the programs and speakers that are committed.

In September Bob Williams of Screaming Reels Guide Service will kick off the season with a session on steelhead strategies. He will focus on flies, reading conditions, timing the run, rigging and strategies. Bob has been guiding and fishing for steelhead for many years, and is familiar with local streams in Ohio. He also guides in PA and NY. Bob is experienced, knowledgeable and excited to pass his knowledge to us.

Then in October we will be treated to a presentation on fly-fishing in Wyoming. Mike Kaul from Pinedale at the foot of the Wind River Mts. and Bridger Wilderness. Mike has been fishing these areas for the past forty years.

In November Al Johnson of northern Michigan will be on hand to talk about the Pere Marquette River. Al has been guiding for 20 years on the PM and Manistee and fishing the northern Michigan area for 20 years before that.

December Holiday Program. This year rather than a dinner, we are going to feature fly tying, hors d'oeuvres and cama-

radierie for an evening. Details will follow in the October Taut Line.

January – Open

In February we will have Don Bastian from central PA. Don has 40 years fly tying experience including 14 years commercial tying. He has over 750 classic wet fly, streamer & bucktail patterns published in the book "Forgotten Flies." This is a program you don't want to miss!

So it looks to be a great year and we hope to have the balance of the schedule filled shortly. See you at the September meeting.

Running Raffle

As we start this new club year we will be introducing a second raffle in addition to our regular monthly raffle, and we call it the Running Raffle. The new raffle is in response to requests for raffle items with a higher value, and will also offer the Club another opportunity to raise funds to operate the Club and its programs. Here's how it works.

A single item, or group of items, will be offered for each running raffle. There will be a limited number of tickets sold, and when the last ticket is sold a drawing will be held for the winner of that raffle. Quantities of tickets offered for sale and their denomination will vary based on the value of the Running Raffle presented. If the tickets are all sold at one meeting, the winner will be drawn at that meeting. If any tickets remain to be sold, the Running

Raffle will be carried over to the next regularly scheduled Members Meeting(s) until all the tickets are sold. The winner does not have to be present to win, and the raffle will be available to NCFE Members and guests. When the winner is drawn, the next item, or group of items, will be announced and tickets will be offered for sale until they are all sold.

Running Raffle items will be on display at the raffle table so everyone can see what is being offered. Running Raffle items may be purchased by the Club or donated from our supporters, and all items are new unless specifically stated before the raffle. The retail value of each Running Raffle will be at least \$100.00.

The first Running Raffle will consist of an Anvil Fly Tying Vise (\$100.00), a copy of the FFF Fly Pattern Encyclopedia auto-

graphed by Al & Gretchen Beatty on August 11, 2005 at the 40th Annual FFF Conclave (\$40), and a Deschutes Float Tube Kit (inner tube not included) (\$40.00). Total value of this Running Raffle is \$180.00. There will be 50 tickets sold at \$5.00 each for this raffle. Multiple tickets may be purchased, but there will be no discount for multiple ticket purchases.

We will also be continuing the Attendance Raffle, so try to attend as many meetings as possible to increase your chances of winning. You get one ticket for each meeting you attend, and we will have two drawings during the Club Year; one at the January members Meeting and one at the picnic in June. This gives everyone five chances to win in each drawing, and all you need to do is attend to get a chance to win.

FFF Conclave 2005 – “Celebrating the Tie that Binds Us”

by Joe Valencic

What an experience! Dick Erickson and I just returned from Livingston, MT where we attended our first FFF Conclave and accepted the McKenzie Cup for North Coast Fly Fishers. This is FFF’s highest Club award presented each year to the club that makes the most significant contributions to FFF & its goals. To be recognized for our contributions to this great organization that represents fly fishers worldwide was a humbling experience, especially when it’s presented in front of more than 200 people representing FFF Clubs and Councils from across the United States.

Dick accepted the award and acknowledged the hard work of NCFE to become one of the premier clubs in Ohio as well as all of FFF. He emphasized the leadership roles NCFE has taken on the GLC Board and the Ohio Sub Council, as well as our Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo™ that brings together FFF members each year from FFF clubs in four states. After accepting the award we were greeted by cheers from fellow FFF members from the GLC Board, Grand River Fly Tyers, Fly Girls and Buckeye United Fly Fishers in Cincinnati. It was good to be among our friends from Ohio & Michigan to share in the moment. That evening and throughout the following day we were congratulated by people we did not know, many who were prior recipients of this award, and others who were thankful for our efforts to advance the goals of FFF.

We were surrounded for four days by many of the legends in fly tying like Bob Jacklin, Al & Gretchen Beatty, Chris Helm, Royce Dam, and George “Chappie” Chapman, as well as many people we had never met or heard of, but who are making significant contributions to fly tying and the FFF. The great Joan Wulff presented casting workshops and demonstrations, and

spent many hours answering questions and signing her books for anyone who asked her. Joan is a lovely lady and is one of FFF’s greatest Ambassadors. The emphasis of this Conclave is Education, with over 85 workshops and classes available to attendees. The most accomplished people in their field taught these classes and workshops, so when you signed up for one you knew you were being taught by the best of the best.

We met the entire office staff of FFF and found them to be hard working, dedicated and caring. It was great to finally meet the folks we had previously only corresponded with by E-mail or phone, and we had fun laughing and joking with them at the various social functions in the evenings.

I attended the Annual Membership Meeting of FFF and had the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas with FFF CEO R.P. “Van” Van Gytenbeek. Van wel-

comes ideas from FFF Members at all levels of the organization, and is genuinely concerned with growth in programs, services and membership for the organization. Because of this commitment, Van has agreed to attend the Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo™ on January 14, 2006 to help us advance these goals at the local level. We are taking advantage of this opportunity by planning some programs around his visit, and will have a session at the Expo where Van will speak about FFF and take questions from the audience.

On Thursday and Friday we volunteered time at the show in the FFF Booth, the Raffle Booth and working with the Chairman of the Fly Tyers Committee. It felt great to help out with the many tasks that make up a show of this magnitude, and the Conclave Committee appreciated our help. Having our own show, we know how important each and every volunteer is to making a show a success.



Dick Erickson and Joe Valencic accept the FFF's McKenzie Cup Award



The trip was not all work. We had the opportunity to fish the Yellowstone River, the Gallatin River and a Spring Creek by the name of Shields. We wet-waded all of these waters, and did so on Saturday morning in the Gallatin Gorge with temperatures in the low 40s and an East wind. I would have paid \$500 to rent a pair of waders that morning. Stepping into the Gallatin's icy water in shorts and wading boots added a whole new dimension to the meaning of "COLD." A weather front moved in overnight, and not only did it rain with strong winds, but snow covered

the peaks above 7,000 feet to make matters more challenging. This was hard to imagine on August 12th, but we were advised ahead of time to prepare for any type of weather including SNOW, so I suppose we could have been better prepared in the gear department. But then, we wouldn't have such a great story to share if everything went smoothly. All told, we caught Browns, Rainbow and a nice 14" Whitefish. This was pretty good considering the adverse weather conditions working against us.

In summary, we had a great time and were honored to represent NCFE and accept the McKenzie Cup for our Club. Hopefully, NCFE will again be represented at the FFF Conclave in 2006 at Bozeman, Montana. I think this would be a great "Outing" if we could get a bunch of club members to attend. There are lots of campgrounds nearby for tents, campers and RV's, and there's an airport in Bozeman for those who would like to fly in. It's not too soon to start the planning for this great event and fishing trip.

The Fly Tier's Corner

Other fish other flies

by Don Van Buren

Too often we get wrapped up in the pursuit of Steelhead and Trout and forget that Ohio and adjacent states are home to some great fishing besides Steelhead and Trout. We are blessed in this region with very nice fisheries for Panfish, Bass, Carp, Pike and other species of fish, which are often overlooked.

Those of us who tie flies may also be shortchanging ourselves, because we tend to primarily tie for the fish species we are pursuing. This was brought home to me when I did my annual late winter/early spring fly box check to begin restocking flies I had either lost or given away. I had plenty of Steelhead, Salmon and Trout flies, which I have to admit I concentrate on, but I came up dramatically short on Panfish and Bass flies. I typically have more than enough flies, even when I do my annual fly box check, but I still tie because I enjoy it. This time was an exception as I came up short on these flies. I set out to remedy this shortcoming and rediscovered the joy of tying these flies. I

also increase my enjoyment further with the researching of new patterns via the Internet and my personal library of fly tying books, and of course there is always a new, super, "gotta have" material that hasn't been tried yet. This restocking of my fly boxes with Panfish and Bass flies also brought back to life several tying projects that I had put on hold.

One of my favorite Bass Flies is a "Foam Frog" which I tie involving several steps of material processing leading to the material being ready to tie. I shortened this entire process and improved the quality of the fly by having a custom cutter made for the "Foam Frog" pattern. Another nagging issue at the tying bench has been the stacking of Deer hair, you know place the deer hair in the stacker, tap, tap, tap, etc. Eventually I had tapped an indentation into my tying surface. My tying station has a 1" by 24" by 7' antique plank as a tying surface. I resolved this issue by gluing cork onto the bottom of my stacker, cutting and polishing a 2"

square by 2" thick block of Mild Steel with cork pads to use as a tapping surface. This resulted in ending the damage to my table as well as a benefit of reducing the tapping noise.

Several additional small fly tying projects that had been neglected for a couple of years were finished as a result of restocking the Panfish and Bass flies. This included storing appropriately my Panfish and Bass tying materials as the original boxes I had used to hold this material was sadly outgrown.

The most enjoyable benefit was the rekindled interest in fly tying by my granddaughter after a morning of fishing for Bluegills with the flies I had been tying for restocking.

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) has it right... "All Fish All Waters". Don't shortchange yourself by limiting your tying that targets a few select species. By tying for other species you'll also be prepared in case you get invited to fish for a species you may infrequently target.



Favorite Fly Program Tiers Schedule September-December 2005



September 7, 2005

Mike Skoczen

November 2, 2005

Eric Nakanishi

October 5, 2005

George Vosmik

December 7, 2005

John Marics

DVD and Book Review

courtesy FFF ClubWire

Tying Classic Wet Flies

by Don Bastian

Triple "L" Productions,

Lambertville, MI, 2004

DVD, 1 hr. 52 mins.

suggested price \$19.95 USD

Reviewed by Bruce E Harang

Wet flies are as much a part of the history of fly-fishing as is bamboo rods and silk lines. And like the later two, wet flies are finally realizing a renewed popularity. One of the problems in tying these wonderful and productive flies is getting good instruction. The author has gone a long way in providing this much-needed information. Don Bastian grew up tying and fishing these old patterns. He has continued to tie them and has become so proficient at it that he was selected to tie about 200 wet flies for the book "Forgotten Flies".

The DVD opens with a short introduction to wet flies and the author by materials guru Chris Helm. This is followed by eight chapters, each covering the tying of a single pattern. The patterns tied are

the Grey Hackle Peacock, Cahill, Yellow Sally, Rich Widow, Cupsuptic, Trout Fin, Parmachene Belle, and Professor. These chapters are followed by a chapter that reviews the previous eight chapters and a chapter on finishing the heads using the method of the author. These eight patterns cover five of the seven possible types of bodies used on the classic wet flies. The missing two body types, chenille, and quill would be a great reason for the author to do a second DVD on these great flies.

Don shares not only the information on how to tie this style of fly, including materials preparation and tying procedures, he also shares hard earned tricks of the trade such as his method of attaching thread to the hook, and mounting tinsel to the hook. Here is an instructor that holds nothing back in assisting the viewer in tying this style of fly successfully.

The best part of this production may well be the enthusiasm that the author brings to the table. You can feel his passion for these flies, and after listening to him

you want to rush to the tying bench and start tying yourself. You cannot help being excited about tying after watching even a single pattern being tied by the author.

Technically the production is well above average. The macro shots of the tying sequences are superb; well lighted, and in sharp focus. All of the camera work is outstanding. The sound is good overall. The use of a chapter menu is as it should be. One of the strengths of the DVD format over the old VHS tapes is the ability to jump from one section to another without the need to fast forward or reverse. This production capitalizes on this strength providing the viewer with an easy to use instructional volume.

This is a must have DVD for all fly tyers. It has great information on wet flies and lots of tips and tricks that will make every fly tyer a much better fly tyer. At \$19.95 for an hour and 52 minutes of top-notch instruction, this is also a great value.

2005 Kids Fish Recap

by George Vosmik

On June 30, 2005 six fly fisherpersons ventured out into the back country of Medina County, Ohio, for an on the water fishing adventure. It was a long way from home but the country was nice and some of the us told jokes and sang songs and played “you don’t know what I’m thinking of – or was it - 20 Questions? The grandfathers enjoyed the games, you could tell by the smiles on their faces.

Finally we got to the Klein hideaway. We had to drive up a steep curvy driveway and you could see the tops of the trees below you, as we made the turn toward the house on the hilltop.

Mrs. Klein greeted us and made sure we knew where the bathroom was and the SWIMMING POOL! All the flowers and bushes and trees she had around the house, they just covered the hilltop!

Lets get set up! Thread the fly lines through the eyes not the leader; and what kind of fly should we put on? Well, look at the nice box of six flies North Coast Fly Fishers provided for us! How about the brown and black one? Ok, lets use it.

Gee, there’s a lot of pop and food in the ice chests; and look at the tent set up over the table. With the sun shining so brightly I think we’ll welcome its shade later on. Down the hill we set down our stuff, and look at the LAKE! It’s big. You can’t cast even half way to its center. Hey there are fish rising. Can we fish now? How about a drink first? OK, Mr. Vosmik has a casting lesson for us now.

“The fly rod is a flexible lever. Remember, say it out loud, ‘its nice to be from Ohio’ forward cast.” It’s my turn now....

“Well, lets see if we can catch some fish!!” Pick your spot. Grandpa, I want to cast over there at that fish that’s chasing something on the water. See, he ate it! I got him. What a nice bluegill.

See the bass, my grandpa pointed to it. Sure, I saw it, and here’s my cast. He ate it! Look at him it’s a really big bass!

“We have to break for lunch.” Aw, not yet! Look I got one interested. Well, OK, those hamburgers and hot dogs smell great. I didn’t know hot dogs could taste so good, maybe its because we’re right

next to the pond and the fish have been biting.

And so it went. Each of the participants caught fish, got too hot and just had to have some more Gatorade – and a big piece of watermelon, later on.

The unofficial score for the day was six very happy kids, five granddads with smiles on their faces – many fish caught and released. Oh yeah the hamburgers and hotdogs got decimated by the happy clan along with the chips, chocolate chip-cookies and all sorts of water, soft drinks and Gatorade.

Maybe next year you might want to join in the fun. Ask your Dad or your Grandpa to sign you up.





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Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

September 7	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Bob Williams	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
September 14	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
October 5	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Mike Kaul	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
October 12	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
November 2	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Al Johnson	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
November 9	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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