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From the President's Quill

Fish For All Seasons

Living in Ohio we are blessed with many opportunities to fish for a variety of species of fish under many different conditions and seasons. Winter ice fishing, trout in the spring, bass/pan Fishing during the summer and Autumn Steelhead fishing. We experience a variety of conditions and many species of fish to pursue. Because we are so fortunate to have such a wonderful Steelhead fishery here on the North Coast we sometimes forget or neglect other fishing opportunities.

Our club supports the "All fish all waters" concept promoted by FFF. We have tried to bring a variety of speakers to address fishing for different species, one example was Brian Flesching speaking about Carp Fishing. Joe Valencic has taken on the temporary assignment of procuring speakers for our 2004-2005 season; here is some insight into his efforts to date:

- September 2004 – Joseph Corwall, VP of The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance (TOSA)
- October 2004 – Open
- November 2004 – Dennis Potter (Self proclaimed "Rivergod" from Michigan)
- December 2004 – Jack Gartside, Boston cab driver turned fly fishing junkie.

He's also talking with A.K. Best, Harrison Steeves, Kim Boal, Jeff "Bear" Andrews and several others to see if they are available for future dates

Roger Grant is in the process of organizing a Steelhead and Trout outing. Andy Setlock has his Camp Hunters Sunrise outing in the planning

stages and had announced some information at our last NCCFF members meeting more details will follow.

An attempt will be made to organize a Bass/Pan Fish outing over the summer months. We would also like to get a NCCFF member or members to step forward and coordinate this effort as well as a possible "Carp" fly fishing outing. I have two members in mind that I will be contacting soon to assist us with these endeavors. If you care to participate or have an idea for another type outing over the summer months please contact any NCCFF Board Member. Your volunteerism will be appreciated.

Remember the Fly Rods and Flies do not have to be put into storage, because we here in Ohio have no off-season. We are fortunate to be able to fish all year long, weather permitting.

Easily overlooked is our location. Here on the North Coast, we are only a few hours drive from some wonderful fishing in adjacent states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. In the works are efforts being made to participate with other FFF Clubs here in Ohio to join in on some of their outings.

The Ohio Sub Council (OSC) has opened some doors of communication that were not available to our Club earlier and this will eventually lead to greater Club Collaboration with outings and events.

Donald R. Van Buren



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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



2003-2004 NCFF Board of Directors & Officers

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Director:
Connie Hodge (440) 286-1216

Director:
Lenny Jagoda (440) 259-5382

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

April Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 7th 2004
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio

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

Dick Walle
8:00 - 10:00 PM

“Be patient and calm - for no one can catch fish in anger.”

“The joys of fishing are not confined to the hours near the water.”

“Fishermen are an optimistic class, or they would not be fishermen.”



– Herbert Hoover

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440-352-7222
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Spring Steelhead Outing

Directed by: Roger Grant

**Saturday, April 3, 2004, 8:30am Until?
Covered Bridge, Conneaut Creek,
Kingsville, Ohio**

Lunch: Depending on location.

**Contact: Roger W. Grant (216)475-5259
rwgrant@ix.netcom.com**

If you plan on attending please provide me with a phone number, email address where you can be contacted. Due to river conditions we may stay near Cleveland (Chagrin) or go into PA. That decision can not be made until close to April 3.

This will be a great outing since the steelhead will be actively spawning, and in numbers.

Directions: Interstate 90 to Rt. 285 Kingsville exit. North to Creek Rd. The covered bridge is east on creek road about 5 miles. Parking on left through bridge.



Pennsylvania Trout Outing at Camp Hunter Sunrise

Directed by: Andy Setlock & Adam Pawlowski

**Saturday, May 15, 2004, 7:00 a.m. till Dark
Titusville, PA (Map to follow)**

- NCFE Members & Guests can fish Caldwell, Pine, Oil, Thompson Run and Sugar Creek.
 - The streams will be stocked the week before and the week of the outing.
 - Coffee & Doughnuts for breakfast (7 AM) followed by lunch (after 11 AM) over an open fire. Cost will be \$7 to help offset the cost of food.
 - Members and their guests wishing to attend this outing can sign up at the regular monthly meetings.
-

2004 Nominations

At the March Board meeting, George Vosmik was appointed to head up the nominating committee. Their assignment is to nominate a slate for next year's Board of Directors for the Club. Any member in good standing can be nominated for Board Membership. If you are willing to serve and perform the duties associated with Board Membership you should contact George Vosmik as soon as possible.

The slate of nominees will be announced at the Board meeting on April 14, 2004. Additional nominations will be accepted at the May 5, 2004 Membership meeting, provided the nominee is willing to serve. The election of Board Members will take place that night.

At the Board meeting of May 12, 2004, the Nominating Committee will announce the nominations for Officers. The Board will then elect the officers of the Club. They will take office at the June 9, 2004 Board Meeting.

Fisherman's Flea Market

Grand River Tackle is hosting a Fisherman's Flea Market in their parking lot located at 1250 High Street, Fairport Harbor, Ohio on May 22 & 23, 2004. The cost to participate is \$10 per space for both days, and you will need to bring your own table(s) for your space. This is an opportunity to sell your no longer used fishing rods & reels, lures, flies, tackle boxes and any fishing related gear you have lying around the house. Snacks and refreshments will be available both days, and the event will be publicized in the local newspapers and fishing club newsletters. Spaces will be sold on a first-come basis, so get your space before they are all sold out. Stop at the shop to pay for your space, or call the store at (440) 352-7222 to speak to Bruce or Terry if you have questions.

Distance Casting: A Method For Improvement

by Bill Gammel – Reprinted from the Winter 2000 Loop

Distance casting has always been held up as some magical performance, when in fact it is simply hurling the fly line through the air as far as possible. This is achieved by casting tight loops with high line speed. These are gained by practice and are based firmly in the essentials of fly casting. By starting with these essentials and adding a few simple techniques, anyone can add substantial distance to his or her cast.

In this article, we break down distance casting and look at practice techniques that will allow you to achieve your goal of improved distance. Also, the following information can serve as a lesson plan for teaching your students to increase their distance whether they are beginners or seasoned casters.

Create A Tight Loop

Loops of less than two feet are considered tight and will cut through the air very efficiently. Tight loops are formed when the rod tip travels in a nearly straight line. This directs the majority of the energy straight forward (or straight back). The path of the rod tip determines the loop size. If the rod tip travels in a convex path, energy is directed in three directions: up, out, and down. This causes the loop to be pulled open by the dispersal of energy, creating a wide or fat loop.

In order to achieve tight loops one must coordinate two essentials. First, the length of the casting stroke must vary with the amount of line beyond the rod tip. If you are casting a short line, use a short casting stroke. For a longer line, lengthen the stroke. Because different lengths of line will create different amounts of bend in the rod, the stroke length must vary with line length in order to keep the rod tip moving in a straight line. The second essential for tight loops is that power must be applied smoothly and progressively, gradually increasing to an abrupt stop. Start the stroke slowly and accelerate as you go—the majority of the power should come in the last half of the cast. Then STOP. This permits the loop to form. The momentum of the fast-moving line propels the loop forward.

Primary Practice: Make Perfect Loops - Then, Make Them Go Faster

Let's look at practice techniques. No matter

what your current skill level, start by practicing perfect loops. These three drills are designed to teach tight loops, loop control, and increasing line speed. Start with 15 feet of line beyond the rod tip and a 9 foot leader. Do not double haul. Now, practice forming perfect loops. Cast loops that are as tight as possible, as softly as possible, without letting the loops fall. Use just the tip of the rod and cast as if trying not to bend the midsection of the rod at all. When you feel comfortable with this drill, add one foot of line and start again. Do this until you can cast 50 feet of line with a controlled perfect loop. After mastering the controlled loop it is time to add rod speed. This increases line speed. Start again with 15 feet of line and cast softly. As you false cast, speed up a small amount. Make sure to start each cast slowly and accelerate to a stop. However, you should accelerate faster and faster each time until you are casting as fast as possible without destroying the loops. Judge each loop for size and shape, increasing the speed only when the loops look good. Now, add one foot of line and repeat the process. Do this until you are casting 50 feet of line as fast as you can, smoothly. The faster you cast while keeping good technique, the higher your line speed, the farther you will be able to cast the fly. Good technique will outdistance brute strength any time, but if you put the two together, you will achieve great distance.

Add The Double Haul

Practice the double haul; it is the most important addition to what we have already discussed. It increases the line speed, adding distance to the cast. In order to get a significant benefit from the haul, you must already be throwing good loops. Be sure to practice sometimes without the haul because it can mask casting faults.

Hold A Long Line Aloft

Practice holding a long line aloft. The more line you can smoothly hold in the air with high line speed and good loops, the farther the line will go on your final cast. To do this, false cast as long a line as you can no hauling, no shooting - with the line pinned against the grip. The loops should remain tight and u-shaped. When you can comfortably hold this length, add one more foot, and so on. If the

loop opens, falls over to one side, or if the line speed diminishes, you are casting too much line. Shorten the line to regain control and then gradually work the line out to the desired length. Remember that a smooth cast will travel farther than a sloppy cast.

This drill enables you to increase your turnover-time, the time it takes the line to run through its loop. The longer the turnover-time, the longer the cast. Note that the length of line you can hold line in the air will vary from taper to taper. You'll be able to hold more of a long-belly, distance taper than of a short-belly line such as a saltwater or bass-bug taper.

Shoot Precisely At The Stop

When shooting on your final cast, practice releasing the line at the precise moment the loop forms (when the rod stops). For every extra millisecond that you hold the line after the stop, you deny distance to your cast. Even great casters sometimes hold the line a few milliseconds too long. Practice releasing the line a hair too early. Then too late. This will help you pinpoint the magic moment.

Add Drift On The Final Backcast

Drift is a powerless repositioning of the rod that occurs after the stop of the final backcast—it does not affect the loop at all and it is a must for distance casting. To drift properly, stop the rod on the backcast, and as the loop unfolds, allow the tip of the rod to "drift" or slide backwards, repositioning the rod for the forward cast.

It is an often-misunderstood aspect of distance casting that a drift allows you to lengthen the stroke without widening the loop. When false casting, the caster puts a certain amount of strain on the rod. The longer the line, the more load on the rod, the longer stroke the needs to be in order to keep the rod tip moving in a straight line. And, by casting harder on the final cast, you further increase the bend in the rod, which requires an even longer stroke. The drift permits this.

Trajectory

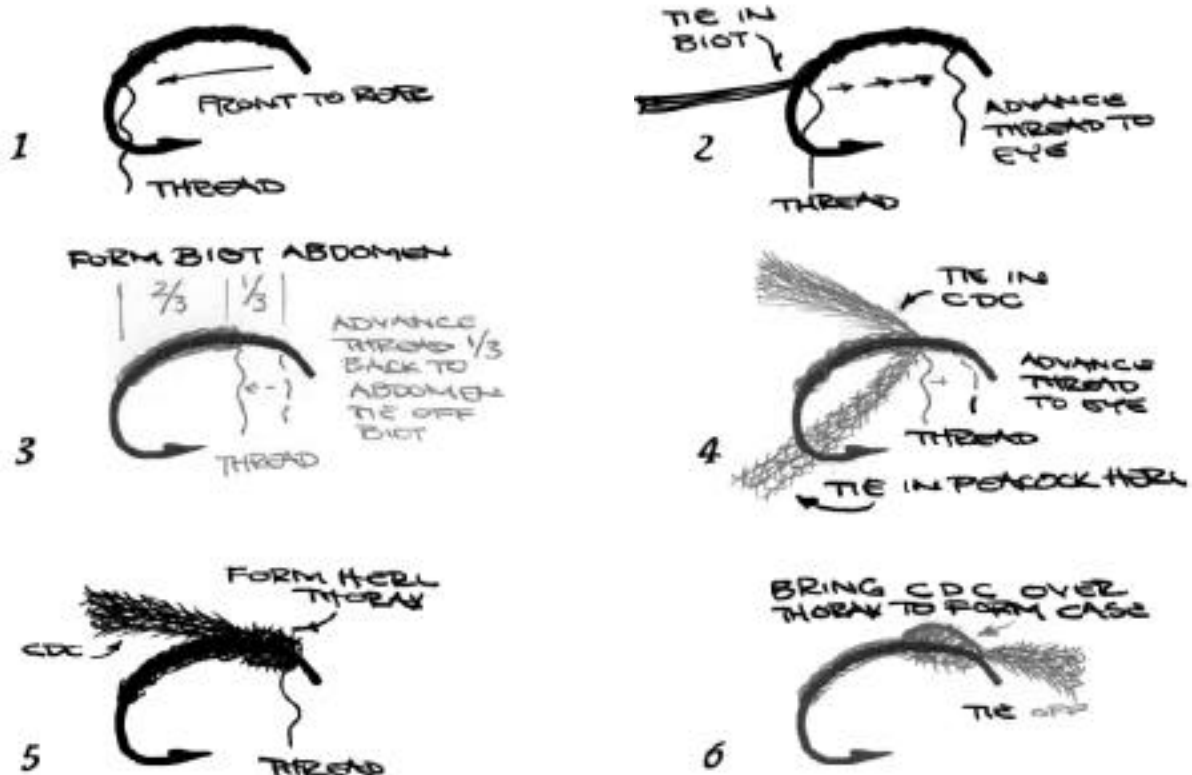
The trajectory in which you release the cast is important. Direct the cast 3 or 4 degrees

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NCFE Favorite Fly

"MS Once and Away" Tied By Mike Skoczen

Hook	Daiichi 1140 Size 14	Thread	Black 6/0
Abdomen	Turkey Biot	Thorax	Peacock Herl
Wing	Four large Cul de canard Feathers (CDC)		
Overcase	Thorax Cover Same CDC Feathers as Wing		
Head	Finish Midge Fly Style		



Donald R. Van Buren

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above horizontal, using your energy to gain distance instead of altitude.

Secondary Practice: Putting It All Together

Begin to blend all of the aspects discussed above. First, using the primary practice drills, incorporate the double haul. Start with a slow line speed and increase it gradually. This should be done with a comfortable length of line.

The next step is to increase the length of line that you are holding in the air. Remember: lengthen the stroke as you lengthen the

line. A good drill is to under-line the rod, with, for example, a 7-weight line on an 8-weight rod. This gives you the ability to hold more line aloft. By doing this you will learn the timing and smooth application of power that is needed when distance casting. Be sure to judge each loop as you cast and adjust each one. To tighten a loop, shorten the stroke. If the loop is tailing, lengthen the stroke.

Now it is time to let one fly.

- While hauling, hold a comfortable length of line aloft at a comfortable speed;

- Gradually lengthen the line to your maximum comfortable limit;
- When everything feels smooth and sustainable;
- Choose one perfect backcast, and then drift;
- Make the final forward cast go as fast as you can, smoothly;
- Release the line.

By following these steps with proper practice, you and your students will enjoy increased distance casting success and more opportunities to catch distant fish.

Opportunity and Change

Message from FFF President Gary Grant

There is an opportunity for us on the horizon, and it comes in the form of change. Not change just for the sake of change. But real change that will allow the Federation of Fly Fishers to deliver on the promise for which it was founded. Several years ago Greg Pitts started us down the road of operating like a business, and not like a big club. Under Greg's leadership we put in place many needed policies and practices that started us down the road the right way. And we realized many things, such as growth in operating revenue from approximately \$425,000 to over \$725,000, development of a business plan to identify goals and objectives, and the hiring of an Executive Director to help put it all together. While we grew and accomplished many good things, we have reached a plateau.

We have stagnant revenue and membership numbers. Our conservation grants are not funded at a level that any of us would like to see. And it's clear that unless we change how we do business we will not be able to deliver on the promise for which we were founded. Unless FFF changes in some very fundamental ways, we will continue on this same path of mediocrity and not have the resources or organizational structure to chart the course of fly fishing across North America and to assist our international affiliates expand fly fishing in their countries.

Now one may be asking what needs to change? Everything is working just fine. I would have to counter that everything is not fine, and we need to change. One of the first changes that needs to occur is a new dialogue about why the Federation of Fly Fishers exists. Many of us have asked or been asked, "What does the Federation

of Fly Fishers do? What does it do for my club? What is the benefit for me to join the Federation of Fly Fishers? Why is it necessary for me to donate during the annual giving campaign? Why must I give to this organization when I can give to the local club?" These and similar questions have been posed over the years. I have always wondered why we are asking these questions. The Federation of Fly Fishers was not founded to be an organization to benefit any one individual or any one club. It was founded to "maintain and further fly fishing as a sport, and through it, to promote and conserve angling resources, inspire literature, and advance the understanding for all anglers in the spirit of true sportsmanship." Thus, the Federation of Fly Fishers was to be an institution that forged fly fishers and local fly-fishing clubs into a national organization that emphasized education, conservation, angling ethics and fellowship. If I could summarize in a few words, the vision was to "chart the course of fly fishing." It was intended to be bigger than any one individual or club. More importantly, it was founded to give unity of purpose among individuals and clubs. As a result we should be asking, "How can I help? How can my club help make a difference?" Overall, we need to change our conversation from what's in it for me, to what can I do to contribute to this common effort to improve fly fishing? Too many of us see the Federation of Fly Fishers as a benevolent organization that you take or get something from, rather than give something to.

The Federation of Fly Fishers was never founded to get something from it. The goal in 1965 was to bring together

those who dedicate their lives to fly fishing as a sport and a means of preserving our angling resources on a national basis. This alliance was to give conservation minded fly fishers unity of purpose, collective strength, and a means of quickly exchanging ideas and information. What we are missing or have slowly moved away from is collective strength. We need to change our mindset about collective strength. We need our clubs to support the Federation of Fly Fishers. To borrow from Jim Rainey's article in the previous Flyfisher, clubs are critically important to the Federation of Fly Fishers. They are the local organizational representatives of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Bill Toone, our new Vice President of Communications, and I had an interesting discussion about our organization and how we can recognize our actual accomplishments and true potential. What Bill explained was that most of us these days travel to many places and fish many different waters. And the waters we fish probably have benefited in some way by the work and efforts of local FFF clubs and concerned members. Basically, most of us today fish someone else's backyard, whereas 20-years ago we perhaps only fished our own backyards. More to the point, when fishing steelhead waters in Washington one has benefited from the wild salmonoid conservation activities of the Clark-Skamanian Flyfishers. If one has fished in the Catskills of New York State they have benefited from the Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers. If one has fished Crane Creek in Missouri you benefited by the work of the Southwest Missouri Flyfishers. Or if you ever fished for snook in Florida you benefited from the efforts of the Man-

grove Coast Flyfishers and their Snook Breeding Program. This exemplary work on behalf of each other is what we need to recognize for us an organization. The other fundamental change that is needed is for our overarching organizational structure to support the needs of our grass roots operations. Our business plan articulates the need or core challenge to increase our organizational capacity and expertise, and develop more continuity and volunteer effectiveness. The best way to accomplish this is with a structure that can support the needs of our grass roots operations and yet effectively interface with industry leaders. The concept of having the organization run by volunteers does not lend itself to supporting the grass roots needs. Basically, volunteers are trying to help volunteers. What we need is professional staff and their associated expertise helping and augmenting our grass roots operations so they can succeed. In addition to providing support and expertise to our grass roots operations, it is necessary to provide the appropriate

division of responsibility between our local, regional and national structures. Fundamentally this means focusing our club and council leadership on local and regional education and conservation activities, while focusing the national board and staff on business operations, development, membership growth, national conservation issues, and interface with industry leaders. To realize this appropriate division it will necessitate a different board structure with different responsibilities. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to have a board of directors that is focused on grass roots operations and at the same time give necessary attention to strategic issues. But having a grass roots council advising a board of directors on local and regional needs, with the board translating those needs into operational policies and business objectives for a paid staff to implement will work, and work very effectively.

These are the fundamental changes that are being worked by the leadership of the Federation of Fly Fishers and what

our Executive Director has been communicating to us. While it is necessary for us to say good-bye to our Executive Director, Jim Rainey, who had to resign due to family issues, we owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his expertise and counsel during his tenure. He has been able to articulate to us a very important need, one which we ourselves could not recognize. While Jim will be greatly missed, his contribution will be enduring and his legacy profound. On behalf of the membership, I would like to wish him and his family well in all his future endeavors and thank him for a job well done. While we are poised for a significant change in how we see and manage ourselves, your support and advice is important. If you have a comment please feel free to let your council leadership or me know how you feel. It is important that everyone's voice be heard.

Thanks for your time and take care!

Contributing to the Taut Line

Doug Crouch, Vice President NCFE, Taut Line Editor

You may have noticed recently that the Taut Line appears to be shrinking. This is no illusion. Nor is it due to some unknown foul play at the printers or a spiteful mailman. The simple fact is we need more content.

We receive this content in two ways. First, we rely heavily on the FFF ClubWire. This comes to us in email form around the 19th of every month. It has not been reliable of late. It has shown up well after the 19th

and sometimes not at all. We usually send the Taut Line out to the printer on or about the 22nd of each month. If the ClubWire comes late, we have to scramble to find material.

The second way we get stories is from our membership. This has been sporadic at best. There is, however, a loyal few who provide material from time to time. You know who you are and we thank you. I think as a club, we can do better. I know through talk-

ing to members that you have quite a bit to say on subjects as far ranging as fly selection on the upper Grand River to where to go eat when fishing around Oil City.

Stories can be sent in through the web site (via email) and we will be happy to edit your stories for grammar, spelling and punctuation. We reserve the right to edit fish sizes to the believable.

Schedule of Upcoming Ncff Events

April 3, 2004	Steelhead Outing	Conneaut Creek, OH
April 7, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Dick Walle	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
April 14, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
May 5, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Jerry Drake	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
May 12, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
May 15, 2004	Trout Outing	Titusville, PA
June 2, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Jerry Drake	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
June 9, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM



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