

# *the taut line*

*the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers*



Volume 17 Issue 4

December 2003

## In this issue:

NCCFF Final Dues .....	1
FFF Membership Renewal .....	1
You Might be a Fly Fisher if .....	2
Favorite Fly .....	3
Holiday Dinner .....	4
Raffles .....	4
Steelhead Outing .....	5
From the Kitchen .....	5
Greetings from Sunny California .....	6
Fly of the Month .....	8
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership .....	9
Fly Fishing Merit Badge .....	10
Upcoming Events .....	12



## NCCFF FINAL Dues Notice

By now you're probably tired of reading that membership dues for 2004 are to be paid by the end of the year. Great news! This will be the last time you see this notice for dues, because all members whose dues are not paid by December 31, 2003 will be dropped from the Membership Roster. That means their subscription to the Taut Line will also end at that time.

Dues can be paid at our NCCFF membership desk if you come to the Holiday Dinner/Members

meeting on December 3rd, or may be mailed to:

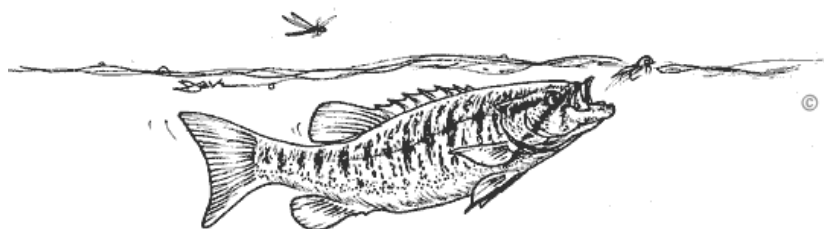
**North Coast Fly Fishers**

**P.O. Box 312**

**Painesville, Ohio 44077**

**Attn: Membership Director**

Maintaining your membership with NCCFF and FFF helps keep our club moving forward and our voice for our sport of Fly Fishing strong. Special thanks goes out to the 40% of NCCFF members who have already renewed their membership for 2004.



## FFF Membership Renewal Notice

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is now providing us with additional membership information to insure our 100% Club status is maintained. FFF membership numbers and renewal dates will be added to the membership roster used to check in members at our meetings.

Beginning with our December North Coast Fly Fishers (NCCFF) Members Meeting we will ask everyone to check in at the membership table. If your FFF Membership is coming due we will inform you of the renewal date, and if it has lapsed, we will inform you how to renew it. Remember, every member of NCCFF must maintain a current FFF membership to belong to our club.

As a reminder, FFF sends all members a Renewal Invoice to their home prior to their mem-

bership anniversary date. It is requested that you pay your renewal directly to FFF to insure continuity of membership and to be sure you don't miss an issue of the Flyfisher. If you send your renewal payment to NCCFF, your renewal may take 4-8 weeks before it reaches FFF. This is because we only pay bills once a month, and the request for payment must go through our Membership Director before a check can be issued at the next Board Meeting. Also, NCCFF must pay an additional fee per check as well as paying for postage and envelopes. This cost is paid from everyone's \$10 membership dues, and is not the best use of our funds. Please renew directly to FFF.

If you have any questions, someone at the membership table can help you.

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: Taut Line Newsletter  
P.O. Box 312  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
Attn: Dir. Of Communications

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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Clip art courtesy Dave Whitlock,  
[www.davewhitlock.com](http://www.davewhitlock.com).

## You Might be a Fly Fisher if . . . .


by Jimmy D. Moore, Woodway, Texas - FFF Club Wire

1. You have one of those large demo flies dangling from your rear view mirror because you think it makes a good conversation piece.
2. Your wedding party had to tie tin cans to your drift boat.
3. You call your fly rod "sweetheart" and your wife "midge".
4. Your local fly shop has your credit card number on file.
5. You keep your wading staff by your favorite chair to change the TV channels with.
6. You name your black lab "Scott" and your cat "Sage".
7. Your local flyshop has a private line just for you.
8. You have your name painted on a parking space at the launch ramp.
9. You have a photo of your 10 lb. rainbow on your desk at work instead of your family.
10. You consider vienna sausage and crackers a complete meal.
11. You think MEGABYTES means a great day fishing.
12. You send your kid off to the first day of school with his shoes tied in a "blood knot".
13. You think there are four seasons:
  - a. Fly tying & dreaming,
  - b. Fly tying and waiting,
  - c. Fly tying and getting your equipment ready and Finally,
  - d. Fishing, but you have to tie some extra flies, just to be safe.
14. You trade your wife's van for a smaller vehicle so your pontoon boat and drift boat will fit in the garage.
15. Your kids know it's Saturday – because both boats and your float tube are gone.

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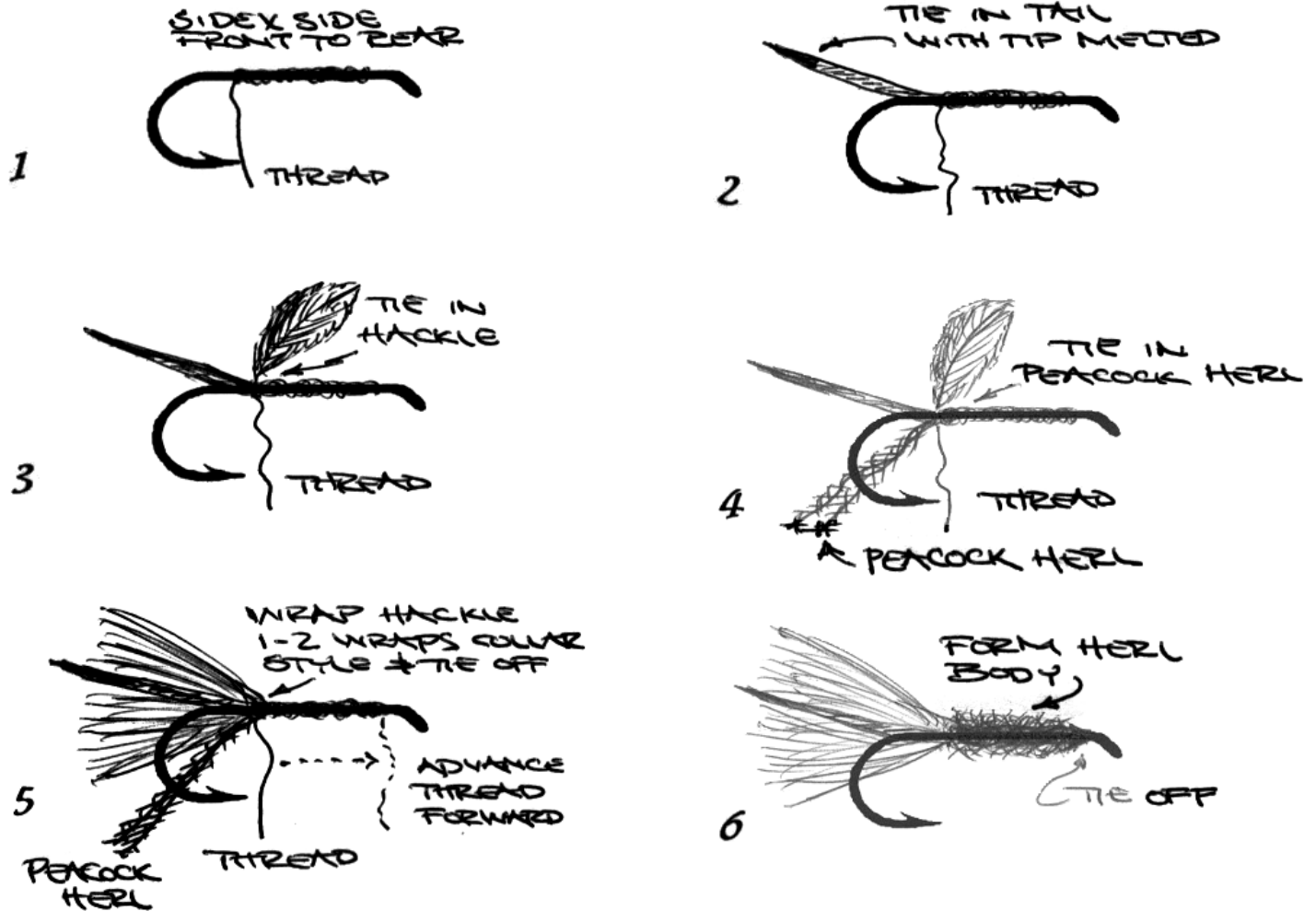
***"If fishing interferes  
with your business,  
give up your business,  
the fish do not rise  
in Greenwood  
Cemetery."***

**- Sparse Grey Hackle**

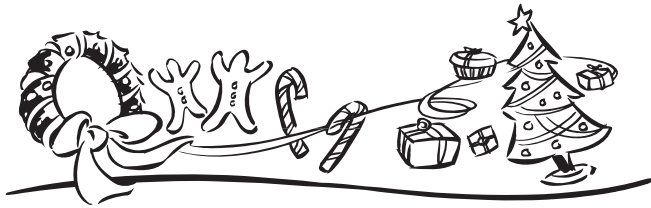
# NCFE Favorite Fly

## "Viagra Caddis" Tied By Jon Hamilton

Hook	Mustad 3906 or TMC 2457 12-14 Thread	Black 6/0	Black
Tail	Ultra Chenille (Insect Green, Chartreuse, Pink or Brown)		
Skirt	Natural Partridge Soft Hackle	Body	Peacock Herl
Head	Finish Nymph Fly Style		



Donald R. Van Buren 11/03



# ***NCCFF Holiday Dinner***

**Wednesday, December 3rd 2003**

**5:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Doors open at 5:00 PM • Dinner served at 6:30 PM

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## **Pine Ridge Country Club**

Ball Room

30605 Ridge Road

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

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### **Cost**

\$20 for Adults

\$10 children 4-12

Free for children under 4

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### **Buffet Style Dinner**

Chicken Marsala

Roast Eye of Round Beef

Roasted Potatoes

Rigatoni

Mixed Vegetables

Salad, Rolls, Butter

Beverages, Coffee

Desert

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3 Favorite Fly Tiers & Socializing with Fellow Members.

Fly Exchange (tie at least 6 flies & gift wrap)

Mega Raffle ticket sales and winning ticket drawing

4th Annual NCCFF Favorite Fly Plate Raffle

Sign up starting at the October Members Meeting

No Beginning Fly Tying - This will Return at the January Meeting

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***Make checks payable to: North Coast Fly Fishers.***

***There will be no refunds for any reason due to circumstances beyond our control.***

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## **Raffles!**

We are encouraging every member to sell or purchase at least one book of tickets for each event to guarantee the success of the event, and more if you are able to.

By selling the tickets you are eligible to win the seller's prizes if you sold one, or all, of the top three winning tickets for each event. If you sell the tickets to yourself and you are one of the top three prize-winners, you collect the seller's prize as well. Remember to put your name on all of the tickets you sell.

Additional tickets will be available at the monthly meetings and on the day of the events as well. Please return the sold ticket stubs and money at the monthly meetings, and be sure to LEAVE THE TICKETS STAPLED TOGETHER! This will help us in accounting for all the tickets and storing them until the event.

If you need additional tickets between meetings, please contact Joe Valencic at (440) 255-8216. All Board members will have a supply of tickets so you won't have far to travel to get them if you need extras.

Good Luck to all the buyers and sellers.

### **Thanks, Mad River Outfitters!**

*A special thanks goes out to Brian Flechsig of Mad River Outfitters ([www.madriver-outfitters.com](http://www.madriver-outfitters.com)) for his generous donation of the Temple Fork fly rod for our Mega Raffle. Brian has been a friend and supporter of NCCFF for many years, and advertises in the Taut Line each month. NCCFF encourages all of its members to give our supporters an opportunity to quote on your fly-fishing and fly tying needs before looking elsewhere. Without our supporters it would be very difficult to provide some of the fantastic prizes for our raffles, so please support Brian and our other fine sponsors whenever you can.*

## Steelhead Outing News

by Roger Grant - NCFE

These are the essentials:

What: Harpersfield Steelhead Outing.

When: 12/6/03(Saturday) 8:00am

Where: Meet at Harpersfield Dam Route 90 to route 534 left(east) on 307 to Harpersfield Dam

Who: Member and guests

Lunch: Ferrante Winery & Ristorante  
12:30pm Rt 307 West of rout 534 on north side of road. 5585 State Route 307 440-466-VINO.

Please check on the Grand river as to water levels and check weather. If the stream is blown out, we may elect as a group to go up to Elk creek. If the weather is unreasonable there will be no outing. Please use your good judgment.

I can be contacted at (216)475-5259 or email me at: [rwgrant@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rwgrant@ix.netcom.com).

## From the Kitchen

by Chef Eric Lowrey - NCFE

### Braised Fennel and Steelhead

This is a yummy and easy fall / early winter dish. You can try it out with all of the steelhead you catch with Roger on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Ingredients

- 1 fennel bulb top trimmed and cut into 8 wedges
- 1 quart fish or vegetable stock
- Zest of 1 orange in 1" strips
- 2 6-8 oz steelhead fillets
- Salt and pepper

#### Steps

1. Pre heat oven to 375
2. Arrange fennel in a medium casserole dish
3. pour in enough stock to cover half way
4. season with salt and pepper and toss in orange zest
5. cover and cook until completely cooked through.(about 35 min)
6. When the fennel is done remove from casserole , discard zest, and place in turned off oven to keep warm.
7. Place fish in casserole and add enough stock to cover three quarters.
8. On stove top bring stock to boil and simmer fish until done (about 4 to 6 min.)
9. remove from dish, place fillet in a bowl and top with fennel and cooking liquid.



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# Greetings from Sunny California

by Brian Endlich

Just thought I would drop a line to let you know I have been out fishing and had some success with sea run rainbows.

I spent 3 days up on the Trinity River in Northern CA about 200 miles North of the SF Bay Area. The river originates in the Trinity Alps and is impounded in Trinity Lake near the town of Lewiston. It then runs into a secondary reservoir, Lewiston Lake which is known for chunky rainbows and prolific callibaetis hatches. Unfortunately, about 80% of the water from this drainage is diverted for agriculture into the southern central valley of CA where marginal farm land made a few people very wealthy on cheap water supplied by tax payers (but that is another story). What remains is a steady tailwater that flows at about 300 cfs from the dam and gains flow from numerous tributaries until it merges with the famous Klamath River about 110 miles downstream. The Klamath reaches the ocean near the town of Eureka. The Klamath had a serious fish kill of chinooks (somewhere on the order of 33,000) last year because of questionable water management in the Klamath River basin by the Bush administration. Fortunately, the Trinity was not as badly impacted and the main run of adult steelhead occurs later in the season than the salmon run.

Steelhead can be caught in the Trinity as early as July but they are primarily juveniles referred to locally as “half-pounders” although they can actually run to about 18” and up to 3 lbs. Majority are 14-16” and great sport on a trout rod. Adults start showing in the lower stretches in September and the main run reaches Lewiston after Thanksgiving. There are still great numbers of chinooks in the system right now but they are mostly red (good for smoking but not aggressive for

hooking) and beginning to form up on their redds.

I had heard that the water was low and clear but that there were good numbers of adult fish about 40 miles downstream near the town of Del Loma. Bob Searle, a shop owner/guide in my current town of Pleasanton, told me about some holes to try in that area as he had just returned from a few days with clients there. He told me that they had seen a lot of fish but that his clients had wanted to fish for them by swinging traditional steelhead flies. They had not had much luck because of the water clarity and low levels. Sounded to me like a perfect opportunity to indicator fish with small nymphs and sucker spawn. Just like I found so effective back in OH and PA.

The area was easy to find as it had been well described by Bob. The main highway runs right along the river for nearly its entire fishable length and access is very easy. The river runs through a typical northern CA watershed in a canyon that is primarily pine forest along the sides of steep granitic mountains. For the most part, the river is floatable with few major rapids and it has many large gravel bars from which to wade and cast.

I started at the “Lone Pine Pool” just upstream of Del Loma at about 3 PM Saturday afternoon. Being as it is a well known pool and access is so easy there were several fishers in the area. As I strung up my recently built Scott SAS 10’ 8wt I could see a guy working the water with a indicator set up. The pool was at least 50 yds long with a good riffle at the head then a long gravel bar in the middle and a run into a deep salmon hole at the end. The gravel bar is the classic type of water that is do popular for swinging flies swallow on one side and gradually dropping to a deep

cut up against a steep wall with large rocks lining that side. Reminded me a bit of Herb’s Hole at Chagrin River Park except a little more wild. The fisher working the pool while I was rigging up hooked up several steelhead and managed to land one of about 6 lbs.

I started fishing the top of the pool in the riffle and saw a few steelhead and salmon rolling. I was not able to hook any and worked my way down through pool. I had no hits through what looked like the best part of the pool and chalked it up to the fact that I had followed someone who hooked a number of fish before me. I fished the beginning of the next pool, where the water slowed and entered a deep slow pool. As I was picking up my line for another cast by felt a strong tug by a good steelhead. I failed to hook the fish but several drifts later I had a solid hookup with a wild hen that measured 24” — she took a #12 copper beadhead PT tied on a short shank nymph hook (one of my most successful flies in OH, particularly on the Grand). The hen cart wheeled several times and then put up a dogged fight but did not take off like I expected a sea run to do. The fish was chrome bright with the hint of a wide pink stipe just beginning to show. This fish was about 100 miles upstream from the pacific. I picked up a hatchery hen of 25” about an hour later, also on the PT. By now it was 5:30 PM and starting to get dark. I fished back up toward the head of the pool and saw a couple of fish landed by some fishers hailing from the Eureka area. They said they had done well on October Caddis larva, a pinkish-orange bug of about #8. The usual favorite fly is the golden stone nymph or a large black rubber legs, a fly that appears to be a cross between a small cigar and a tarantula.

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Neither of the favorite flies had been working and they were surprised to hear that my fish had come on small nymphs.

I vowed to be back at the pool by dawn. I decided to return to the same area regardless of the recent fishing pressure because I wanted to try and get on the water before sunup and wanted to be in a familiar place. I did get back around 6 AM in pitch black darkness and I had rigged up in my motel room previous to loading up the car. There were 3 guys already in the prime run of the pool when I arrived so I headed up to the head of the pool. I managed 2 hatchery males of about 25" on flame and cheese sucker spawn at the head of the pool and two hatchery females 26" in the slower water at the tail of the pool. I picked up about a fish per hour. A slow day by OH or PA standards but I was pleased since I had little knowledge of the area — it was a good day by Trinity River standards. The copper bead PT brought the most hookups of the day including 2 lost fish.

About lunch time I headed back upstream to meet up with a friend to fish the Douglas City area of the river. I needed time to dry out since I had fallen while chasing one of the steelhead down stream (I landed him regardless). I had managed to keep from shipping water in my waders but the forearms of my polar fleece jacket were a bit soggy. I met Ed and his springer puppy Skeena (after the famous BC river) who was just returning from Chinook fishing at the mouth of the Smith River, a well known spot for fishing out of prams for very large salmon. We fished the Douglas City area all afternoon with no luck and no fish were seen. It had been overcast all day and nearly perfect steelheading weather. Several bald eagles were spotted winging through the canyon. It started

raining, the first storm of the season and at dark we drove in Weaverville for dinner.

As we hit Weaverville, the rain started turning to snow (elevation is about 2000 ft) but the snow was still pretty sloppy. After a nice sirloin dinner accompanied by a few regional micro-brews we headed back to the cars to find them covered with several inches of snow. The road was covered and visibility was poor. Ed decided to head back to the motel while I attempted to make a call to the wife - Weaverville is about the only town nearby that has cellular service. The drive back to the motel was about 10 miles but took me about 45 minutes as I couldn't see more than 30 ft in front of me and the mountain roads are not lit nor well marked. The motel was ominously dark as I approached and Ed was no where to be found. This did not look good. The proprietor asked if we needed flashlights and could not say when the electricity would come back on. Fortunately, I had left the room heat on when I left and the room was still warm. Ed and the puppy showed up about a half hour later as he had driven past the dark motel and discovered his mistake several miles down the road at a familiar landmark.

Fortunately, the electricity along with the heat and water (electric well) came back on before morning. There was no fly tying that night. The next day we fished in Douglas City near Steiner Flat. There were several inches of snow on the ground and I was glad I had brought my midwest winter wading boots - rubber soles with spikes. Ed swung a stonefly with a globug dropper using his Cabela's 11'3" 6 wt and a floating line. I followed through indicator fishing with my sucker spawn/PT tandem. I hooked the only fish of the morning on the PT, it was the largest fish I hooked on the trip. After jumping several times in

took off upstream. After I worked it back down it dogged me for a while and as I was coaxing it into shallower water it got below me and threw the hook with a violent head shake. I fished about an hour longer, to finish working through the run and called it a day.

I won't get back up there until early December because of the timing of our first vacation since returning to CA. Pre-vacation preparations and then returning just before thanksgiving leaves no more time for steelhead. Ed and another buddy are back up there even as I write this note. I gave them each a handful of copper PT's and hope to hear if it worked for them.

Miss all of you guys even though Swanson and family moved out to join me. We actually work about 10 miles from each other in Sacramento and sometimes meet for lunch near Keine's Fly Shop. We got into some nice shad fishing and a few small stripers in the American River which runs through town back in July. We can drive up near the Nimbus hatchery at lunch and look down into the American River to see all the Chinooks staging below the gates. Some smaller steelhead are starting to show in the area but the bulk of the adult run will not be until Jan.

Keep me posted on your outings to Chagrin, Grand, Elk, Cattaugas etc. If you are ever in the area call me and maybe we can put you onto some fresh sea runs. Tons of other fishing opportunities abound.

*Warmest Regards,*

Brian Endlich  
3194 Washoe Way  
Pleasanton, Ca 94588  
925-461-7495



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## Fly of the Month: Draper Dragon

by Bob Bates - of the Washington Council & Inland Empire Fly Fishers

There are many dragonfly nymph patterns in existence. Some are so simple that one wonders how they can be called a "dragonfly nymph." Others are so realistic that it might be better to let them crawl back into the water.

This pattern solves one of the problems with tying good dragonfly nymph patterns: Making the body flat and wide without smashing down something like a lead wire body. The two shank welded construction of the Partridge Draper hook, model H3ST, makes the flat, wide dragonfly body easy to tie. The current cost for this hook (2003) is about \$9.75 for a package of ten hooks, but if you look around the fly shops as I did recently you might find some with the 1994 price of \$7.50 for a package of ten hooks. John Newbury introduced the Draper hook to Northwest Washington many years ago when he began tying this pattern. Newbury is a demonstration tier at FFF conclaves. Several local tiers copied the pattern, and as expected added their own touches to it. The late John Propp tied the fly above.

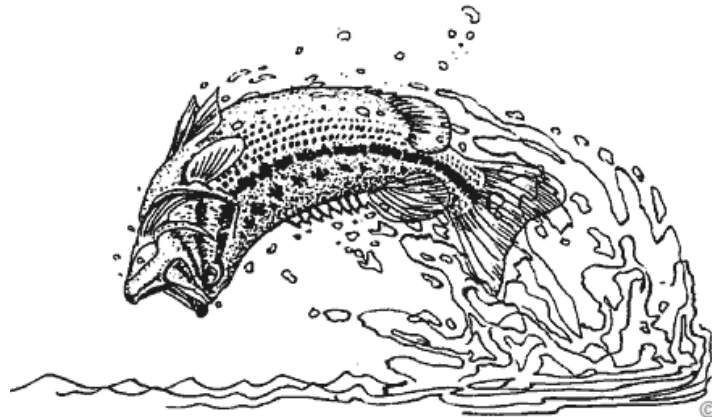
Dragonfly nymphs live two or three years, making them an important year-

round food source. Some species are less than an inch long and others are up to 2-1/2 inches long. They make a good mouthful for any fish.

Dragonfly nymphs are real bullies and will eat anything smaller than they are. According to Ernest Schwiebert in *Nymphs*, 1973, "The nymphs catch other subaquatic organisms by lying motionless like a muskellunge in the weeds. Although they are capable of rapid movements, they usually trap their victims with a lower labium that snaps out like the tongue of a frog, its hooks pinioning them securely." So when you fish a dragonfly nymph, use a full sink or sink tip fly line. Let the fly sink into or near weeds, and then start working it with a hand twist and an occasional "jet propelled" strip. Vary the re-

trieve until you find one that fish like. Years ago Propp said: "This pattern is the most effective one around. I catch fish with it all the time."

The original pattern called for seal fur, but there isn't much legal seal fur around. Therefore, substitutes such as Angora goat, Turrall dubbing or other seal substitutes are used. Also early patterns used picric acid dyed feathers that had the exact yellow-green olive color needed around Northwest Washington. However, it is a dangerous material: The crystals are explosive. "Close enough" colors can be achieved with safer dyes. Besides, your dragonfly nymphs might have colors from olive-gray to muddy brown matching their environment.



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# *2nd Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo*<sup>TM</sup>

**January 17th, 2004**

**Brought to you by the North Coast Fly Fishers and  
the Clarion Hotel – Cleveland East**

**Check our website for updates – [www.expo2004.ncff.net](http://www.expo2004.ncff.net)**

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## **Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Calls for More Access to Private Lands**

*by Ken Barrett - FFF Club Wire*

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is new and unlike any angler/hunter organization that has ever existed. It is working to guarantee us all a place to hunt and fish. And it is pitching a tent big enough for every one of America's anglers and hunters to gather under. TRCP is for fly fishers, spin fishers, duck, deer and dove hunters. It's for blue water and flats fishermen; it's for big and small game hunters. It's for New Englanders, Mid-Westerners, Southerners and Westerners. It's for everybody that loves hunting and fishing and wants to help secure its future.

TRCP believes that hunting and fishing's future relies on three things: Access, Habitat and Funding. While these three are inextricably connected, the one in greatest need of our attention is access, which we are losing at an alarming rate. Hunters and anglers have shown, repeatedly, an enormous willingness and desire to fund habitat restoration and improvement projects. They have pumped billions

of dollars into habitat, through license purchases, excise taxes on the purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and voluntary donations through groups like the Izaak Walton League of America, Federation of Fly Fishers, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and dozens of other groups, many of who comprise the TRCP. All they have asked in exchange for these billions of dollars is good quality habitat and access to places where they can hunt and fish. Because without access, there is no hunting and fishing.

That is why TRCP has begun its work to "Guarantee Us All a Place to Hunt and Fish" by helping develop the recently introduced federal legislation called "Open Fields." The legislation, sponsored by Senators Conrad (D-ND) and Roberts (R-KS) utilizing incentive-based public / private partnerships, will expand access on private lands by millions of acres, for millions of hunters and anglers, during the coming

years. When passed "Open Fields" annual \$50 million dollar budget will be made available to the individual states to enhance or initiate public access programs that benefit the average angler and hunter, private landowners and our nation's fish and wildlife. Most importantly, though funded with federal dollars, the monies will be directed and administered by state agencies, for the benefit of individual hunters and anglers.

Getting this legislation passed will be a big step toward guaranteeing us all a place to hunt and fish. We at TRCP are delighted that FFF is already an affiliate member of the Partnership and we encourage every chapter and individual to join as well. To learn more about "Open Fields," and TRCP please log on to [www.trcp.org](http://www.trcp.org) or call toll free **877.770.8722**. And remember membership in TRCP is FREE.

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# The Boy Scouts of America Introduces the New Fly-Fishing Merit Badge

by Bob Sousa - FFF Club Wire

This was the headline one year ago when the Boy Scouts of America announced the new Fly-Fishing Merit Badge (FFMB). Those of us in the fly fishing community cheer enthusiastically as scouts join us in this fascinating sport. To earn the badge, scouts must learn how to assemble a balanced rod, line and reel using appropriate knots, select and deliver just the right fly using learned casting techniques, and catch fish.

As in all 100 plus merit badges available, scouts are encouraged to use multiple resources, including the official FFMB pamphlet (BSA Supply Division #33283) and their merit badge counselor, to learn the necessary skills and information embodied in the 10 requirements.

As the subject expert, it is the merit badge counselor's role to ensure that each requirement is met. Simply follow the requirements. Frustration among scouts and counselors often occurs because someone feels that they can do it a better way. Clearly there is no intent to suppress individuality in teaching these skills. Yet, the counselor must know that each requirement went through considerable analysis and discussion before it was adopted as the national standard for the badge. If the scout asks questions, answer them as best you can but when all is said and done, the 10 official requirements are what is being measured.

While there is no set time for completing the FFMB from start to finish, a well planned program should be able to address most of the skill requirements in 3-6 hours. At scout camp for example, you may have only 5 hours to work with scouts before they go onto to other activities. So use the available time efficiently. Again, stick to the requirements and remember to have fun!

Perhaps if we go through each requirement, I can offer some advice that you might find useful.

## Requirements

1. Explain to your counselor the injuries that could occur while fly-fishing and the proper treatment, including cuts, scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, and heat reactions. Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm. Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fly-fishing.

The scout can self learn this requirement (R1) by reading the FFMB pamphlet. This is a grand opportunity to remind scouts to wear a hat, glasses and use sunscreen when fly fishing.

2. Discuss how to match a fly rod, line, and leader to get a balanced system. Discuss several types of fly lines, and explain how and when each would be used. Review with your counselor how to care for this equipment.

R2 is fairly straightforward and is simplified by having some props like multiple weight fly rods, several boxes of fly lines (WF floating, sinking tip, full sink, etc.)

3. Demonstrate how to tie proper knots to prepare a fly rod for fishing:

1. Tie a backing to a fly reel spool using the arbor backing knot.
2. Attach backing to fly line using the nail knot.
3. Attach a leader to fly line using the needle knot, nail knot, or a loop-to-loop connection.
4. Add tippet to a leader using a double surgeon's loop or blood knot.
5. Tie a fly onto the terminal end of the leader using the improved clinch knot.

I look at R3 as one of the big 4. It is one that will take time to teach but again, props will help. Make up some very large fake hooks and heavy cord to teach each of

the required knots. As stated earlier, I am sure we all know a better knot. Great, but curb your temptation and only teach those that are required!

4. Explain how each of the following types of flies are used: dry flies, wet flies, nymphs, streamers, bass bugs, and poppers. What does each imitate? Tie at least two types of the flies mentioned in this requirement.

R4 is another of the big 4. Props will work showing the various types of flies, but to sit down and actually tie two types is going to take some time. I usually start by teaching the bead headed wooly bugger on a size 6 hook. Not only is it a most effective fly, it teaches many of the basic skills needed for more advanced flies I use the bead because for obvious reasons I don't want the scouts to be handling lead wire. For the next fly, I am still going through an internal debate as to teach either the hare's mask nymph or the elk hair caddis. Both will work but I am sure you also have a favorite. Again, keep it simple, have all the materials out and at first use larger hook sizes. I also like to use the plastic Gudebrod bobbin (currently a discontinued item) as it flexes somewhat to dampen the extra strain a beginner is apt to exert. In larger classes (I often teach up to 8 students at a time), I spend a lot more time teaching and very little time rethreading bobbins. Have extra threaded bobbins available. Size 3 or G thread is recommended because of its added strength. Lastly, with multiple students, I keep every member of the class at the same step. This allows me to check the work, make corrections, and permits everyone to leave with a reasonably functional fly.

5. Demonstrate the ability to cast a fly consistently and accurately using overhead and roll cast techniques.

R5 is another of the big 4 because it takes time, space and equipment. I do

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it on grass but prefer to cast over water if available. I begin by having about 30' of line laid out. It really helps if the wind is not blowing but if it is, try to keep it at the scouts back. I always begin by teaching the roll cast first. It allows almost immediate success! In this one cast, the scout learns the proper hand grip and the stopping point. As in fly tying, I teach everyone in unison allowing no one to speed ahead. Work slowly on this one and you will be amazed how quickly they catch on. When I am sure they have the roll cast, I then teach the snap stop at exactly the same stopping point as used in the roll cast. I encourage the scout to watch the back cast as it unrolls in back of them and by verbally saying "now" (at the point when the line straightens behind them) to signal the moment to bring the rod forward. At this point you might have to work with one scout at a time but eventually most will get it if they snap stop between 1 and 2 and, while watching the backcast unroll, get the timing down as to when to bring the rod forward. Your objective is to have the scout lay out about 30-35' of fly line in a fairly straight line. Again, you must resist the temptation to have the scout shoot 80' of line, double haul, and other advanced casting techniques. Lastly, remember that tired arms cast poorly so encourage them to stop and celebrate when they make a great cast. This is supposed to be enjoyable! I always say that I am looking for a few casts well done than a lot of lousy casts. If you are going to work with numerous scouts at one time, it helps beforehand to have the casting area flagged, including a safety zone for backcasts. The Royal Wulff Fly-O, a short yarn casting rod, really helps screen those who are ready to move to a real fly rod. If they can cast a Fly-O, they usually quickly learn to cast a fly line. Also, use a small piece of colorful yarn as a fly. Another tip is to use a five foot piece of 10 lb

test mono line as a leader ... they are going to tie many wind knots!

6. Go to a suitable fishing location and make observations on the types of insects fish may be eating. Look for flying insects and some that may be on or beneath the water's surface. Look under rocks. Explain the importance of matching the hatch.

R6 may take a bit of time but remember, you are not teaching an entomology course. I like to keep it relatively simple and explain that there are little black bugs, medium black bugs and big black bugs ... similarly, bugs of various colors are significant and the most successful angler will be one who determines what the fish are eating at any given time. Remember, some scouts may want to fish in saltwater so streamers emulating baitfish or crabs may be more effective for them. If the scout wants to learn more about aquatic insects, give them a good reference like Gary Borger's book on aquatic insects.

7. Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace and how it positively affects fly-fishing resources.

Like R1, refer the scout to the FFMB pamphlet. Let the scout explain to you the concept of Leave no Trace as it pertains to fly fishing. As a counselor, you would do well to read this chapter yourself particularly the section regarding the very low risk of introducing biological pests like parasites, viruses and non-resident baitfish when fly fishing.

8. Obtain a copy of the state regulations affecting game fishing where you live. Explain why they were adopted and what you accomplish by following them.

You can prepare for this requirement beforehand by contacting your local state licensing agency to request multiple copies of the State's fishing regulations. You need to be familiar with the laws and follow

them to the letter. Also, be aware that some states will require your scouts to be licensed before they can legally fish. In some cases that means even to hold a rod over water so be sure you know the law. All states will be different but you may wish to contact the state's aquatic resource education specialist to determine if your classes may be exempted from the state's licensing requirements.

9. Explain what good outdoor sportsman-like behavior is and how it relates to fishermen. Tell how the Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America relates to a fishing enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, and obeying fishing regulations.

We want good resource custodians who are respectful of others so this is your chance to provide some mentoring on the customs of fly fishing. Again, the FFMB pamphlet discusses this topic so ensure that you read it yourself.

10. Using the fly-fishing techniques you have learned, catch two different kinds of fish and identify them. Release at least one of them unharmed. Clean and cook another fish.

R10 is best left to the scout. In the case where you are along, give him the space and encouragement he needs. Back off and allow him to make some mistakes and choose your corrections wisely. By all means, celebrate his success if he makes a great cast and show pride and excitement should he catch a fish ... I don't think you could contain yourself anyway!

Finally, as one scout told me at the last National Boy Scout Jamboree, this is the "funnest" merit badge. Your job as FFMB counselor is simply to make it so!

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## Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

December 3	Holiday Dinner & Membership Meeting Favorite Fly, Mega Raffle & Dinner	Pine Ridge Country Club 6:30 - 10:00 PM
December 10	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
January 7, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker to be determined	Lake Farm Parks 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
January 14, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
January 17, 2004	Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo	Clarion Hotel, Cleveland East
February 4, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker to be determined	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
February 11, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
February 21, 2004	NCFE Conclave	Penitentiary Glen

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