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## Steelhead Outing Follow-up

by Roger Grant - NCFE

With the snow we had Friday night it looked bad for the Saturday outing. When I arrived at Harpersfield a little before 8:00am there were guys fishing below the dam and having success hooking and landing a few steelhead.

Dick, Paul, Chuck, Skip and Howard (our personal guide for the trip), braved the weather for what turned out to be a good day. We tried to fish the Grand River for a short time but the river was running a little to fast. Howard Beates suggested we head up to Elk Creek and fish a location he believed held steelhead. On his suggestion we drove up and found the water to be gin clear with no pressure and steelhead in abundance. In a couple of the deep holes there were from twenty to thirty fish but inactive. Try as we could they would not look at fly. However, in the riffles and runs the steelhead were active and willing to hit a fly.

Late afternoon we went across the street to Elk Creek Inn for chile to die for. It may have been worth the trip just for the chile.

Even with the limited turnout the day was successful. Both Dick and Paul were able to hook fish and Howard did an excellent job of helping everyone with the techniques of fishing for steelhead. Did I mention 2 of the fish hook were hooked on my ugly bug?

Thanks everyone for a great day. Look for another steelhead outing this spring with hopefully better weather.

*The following is a testimonial from Paul Oleksa who participated in the steelhead outing.*

Hi Roger - Well, it's been just over a week since your outing, and I still keep thinking about it. I had such a great time! I've been telling everyone about it, my family, my friends, the guys

*continued on page 5*

## Mailing Label Change

Beginning with this issue of the Taut Line, you will notice (if you look closely) that there is a date below your address. This is the renewal date for your FFF Membership, which is a requirement to belong to NCFE. Some of you will notice that the date listed is in the past (ancient history for a few), which means your FFF Membership has lapsed and must be renewed immediately.

You can renew your FFF Membership by going online to [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org) and completing the online renewal form, or by simply paying the invoice that FFF sent you prior to

your renewal date. Please do not send renewals to NCFE, as they can take up to 60 days to process, and the club gets no benefit for renewals.

To maintain our 100% Club status with FFF, NCFE will be getting a monthly roster to verify that all of our members are current FFF Members. If we find that you are more than 60 days behind in your FFF dues, we may be forced to drop you from the roster until you verify that your dues are current, so please renew as soon as you get your invoice from FFF.

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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[www.davewhitlock.com](http://www.davewhitlock.com).

**January Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
**Penitentiary Glen Nature Center**  
**8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.**  
**Kirtland, Ohio**

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

**Guest Speaker**

**Steve Gossage - Fly Fishing Montana**  
**8:00 - 10:00 PM**

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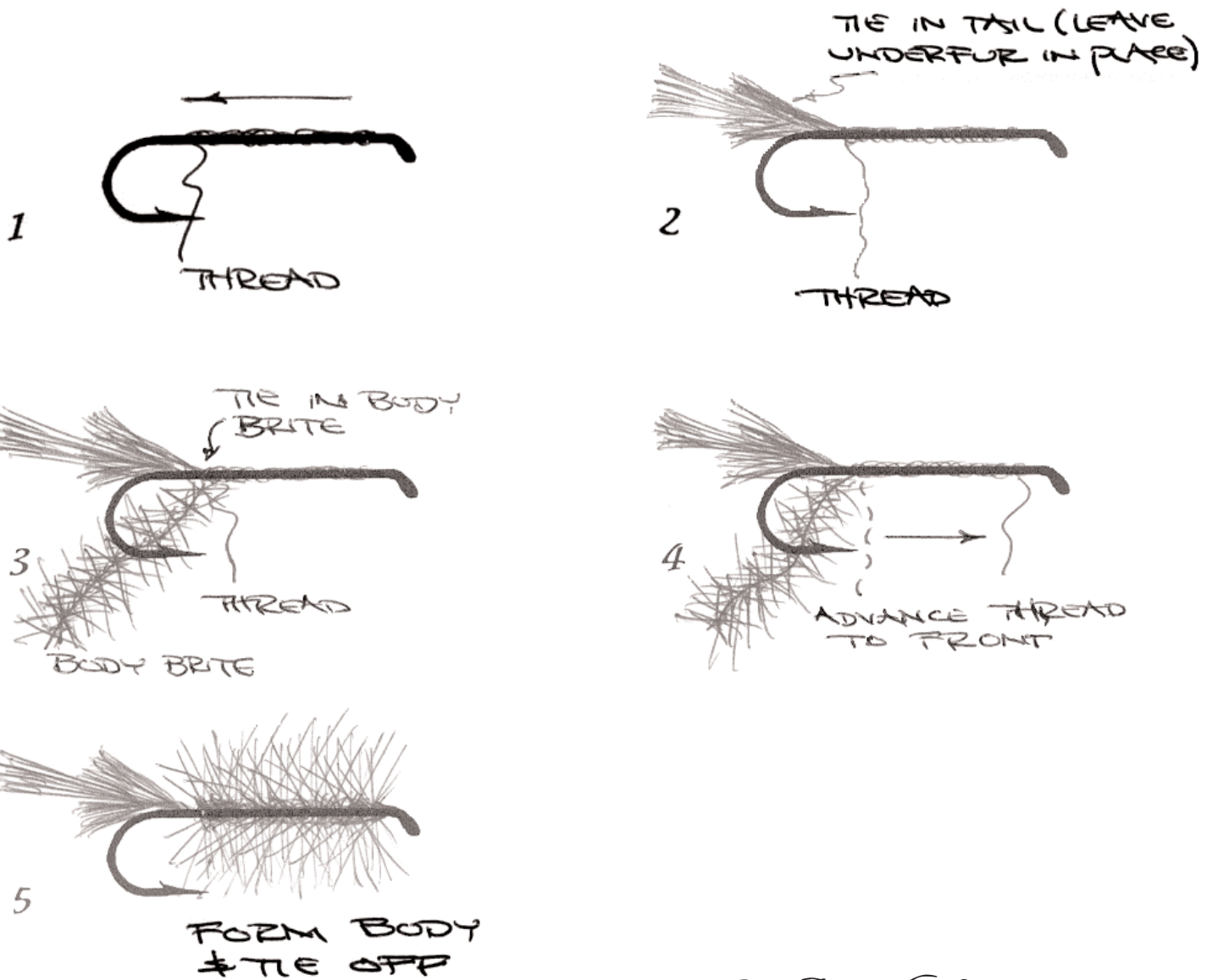
*“Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn.”*

*– Chuck Clark, on Fly-Fishing*

# NCFE Favorite Fly

## "Ugly Bug" Tied By Roger Grant

Hook *Dai-Riki 700 1x Strong 4x Long Size 8 Thread Black 6/0*  
Tail *White Bow Tye or Rabbit fur off color White*  
Body *Black Body Brite by Spirit River*  
Head *Finish Nymph Fly Style*



Donald R. Van Buren 12/03



# 2nd Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Exposition™

**January 17th, 2004 – 9 AM to 4PM**

**at the Clarion Hotel • 28500 Euclid Avenue at I-90 Wickliffe, Ohio 44092**  
(Additional parking at the Center For Pastoral Leadership – 2 doors to the East)

## **Featured Tiers**

Chris Helm, Bill Skilton, Wayne Samson, Glen Weisner, Charlie Chlysta, Dick Walle, Jerry Drake, Kevin Feenstra, Glen Blackwood and More...

## **The Best of The Best**

Fly tiers from 15 Federation of Fly Fishers clubs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Michigan

## **33 Tables of Vendors**

Offering everything you need for fly tying & fly fishing, plus representatives from some of the top-name manufacturers will display their latest equipment & materials and answer your questions.

---

## **4 Mini Seminars throughout the day**

### **“Fit to Fish!”**

By: Dr. Keith Berend –  
Fisherman's Health

### **“Unique Fly Tying Materials”**

By: Bill Skilton – USA Flies

### **“Why & When to Hire a Guide”**

By: Billy German-  
Pine Lake Trout Club

### **“Ins & Outs of Fly tying”**

By: Don VanBuren - NCCFF

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## **Non Stop “Beginner Fly Tying” Lessons By NCCFF**

If you have never tied before, this is your opportunity to learn the basic elements of tying, and to take home a fly you tied yourself. This is fun for the whole family.

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**\$8 Adults (18 & Older) • \$6 Seniors & Kids 12-17**  
**Children under 12 Free**

Refreshments and Food available for purchase in the Grand Tying Room

For More Information Call Joe Valencic at (440) 255-8216  
or visit Expo 2004 online at [www.expo2004.ncff.net](http://www.expo2004.ncff.net)

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

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## Expo Bargain Table

by Joe Valencic - NCFE

Once again we would like to ask all members to clean out their tying benches and donate their unused, underused, never used or partial packages of fly tying material for the bargain table at Expo 2004. We are also be interested in any fly rods, reels and other fly fishing related items that are still serviceable to be donated as well.

Last year we sold everything that members donated, and many of the purchasers thanked us for having good bargains for them to buy. As you well know, not everyone can afford to buy new materials and equipment, so this can be looked upon as helping those less fortunate than us.

Please bring your donated item to the January 4th meeting and place them in the box at the registration table.

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## NCFE at the GLC Fly Tying Expo

by Doug Crouch - NCFE

The Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers had its fourth annual invitational Fly Tying Exposition on Saturday, December 6, 2003.

The 2003 Exposition was held at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, Michigan, a few miles southeast of Lansing off I-127.

Over 100 tiers were anticipated for the 2003 Expo. Some of the featured tiers included; Jeff 'Bear' Andrews, Rusty Gates, Dick Walle, Chris Helm, Ray Schmidt, Dennis Potter Oscar Felui and many others. George Vosmik, Joe Valencic and Kevin Compton tied flies on behalf of the North Coast Fly Fishers and the Ohio Sub Council (of the GLC).

Once again, tiers had the opportunity to sell their flies, artwork, books, or related

products from their booths. New to the show this year was a limited number of vendors selling fly tying materials and related products. Additionally, there were free seminars featuring selected master tiers demonstrating their skills using a macro-video camera and monitor.

The event was well attended and the range of flies being tied was impressive. I took the opportunity to soak up as much fly tying info as I could and came away with some new ideas, some new patterns and a somewhat lighter wallet!

Several tiers and guest mentioned to me that they were having a great time, and they were already looking forward to our own Expo in January.

So am I!

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## Steelhead Outing Follow-up - *continued from front*

I have breakfast with. I had never, ever, caught a steelhead before, and that day I caught two - almost three!

The night before, I thought you might cancel because of the snow, but you didn't, and it turned out to be a beautiful, sunny winter day. I had never fished on the Grand before, either, so I was glad to see it. I definitely want to go there some more and get to know the river better. You know, one of the highlights of the day was seeing that old man on the bridge catch three steelhead on a bobber and a worm while we were waiting to get started. He was having such a "grand" time, it was fun to watch! And a real contrast to our fly fishing gear.

And going to Elk Creek was just a great experience. It's hard to imagine that

fish the size of steelhead can be caught in water that is often less than a foot deep. And we could actually see the fish in the water. What an experience.

But I think what I enjoyed most of all was learning from you and Howie. Many thanks to you for setting this outing up! This is something you didn't have to do, but you did it, and we benefited. And yes, the donuts and rolls were good too. As one of the novices on the trip, I can say that you guys were really great. I learned so much. Some of the things I was doing wrong, like setting the hook the wrong direction, were so obvious once it was mentioned, that I wonder why I didn't just see it myself beforehand, but it seems to make so much difference when you are actually doing it in the stream. And when you

have someone nearby to coach you, it makes all the difference in the world.

All in all, it was a really great day. I want you and Howie to know how much I appreciated it. (I don't have Howie's e-mail address, so I can't send him a copy of this, but I'll catch up to him at one of the next NCFE meetings.) Thanks again.

*Editors Note - Outings are important events and we do not do enough of them. They are easy to plan and execute with the NCFE "Outings Guide". We simply need more NCFE members like Roger to coordinate them. Talk to a NCFE Board member for more info.*

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## Dying and Tinting

by Joe Branham of [saltwaterflytying.com](http://saltwaterflytying.com), courtesy FFF ClubWire

I generally use Rit dyes. There seems to be some concern that these dyes will not work very well, but I assure you that they do. I dye a lot of the materials that I use.

Do not get your water too hot. Generally the temperature of the hot tap water is fine. Make sure that you keep the water at that temperature. If you get the water too hot, you will cook your materials.

Tan is a very common color in saltwater and there are two different colors of tan. One is what I call tan and the other is an orangish tan. To get the orangish tan, use Tan Rit dye. To get the regular tan color, use Ecru and about 1/4 as much Tan. This will give a very nice tan color without the orange tint. To get a light pink, use Rose Pink, but only use a very small amount of the dye. The more dye you use, the more of the rose color you will get.

Chartreuse is another color that depending on your taste, you can have two separate colors. Some like a greenish/yellow which will be on the green side and others, myself included, like a yellowish/green which is on the yellow side. I generally mix Neon Yellow and Neon Green Rit dye to get chartreuse. I mix a little more yellow than green. Depending on the color you want, mix the dyes accordingly.

You do not have to soak your materials for long periods of time. Calf tails should be wet when you put them into the pot. It does not take but a minute or so until they are ready. Marabou should be very wet. Some of the marabou that I get and dye, seems to

have something on it that makes it repel water. You will have to make sure that this material is wet. Check it regularly when dying. This needs to be stirred quite a bit or some of the plumes will not pick up the dye.

To dye saddle patches or necks, I generally soak them until wet and then dye them. If you have the water too hot, you will cook the skin. Check occasionally to see how they look. A hint on these-I cut my necks so that I only dye the feathers that I need. If I want the larger feathers, I only dye the top of the neck, if I want the smaller feathers, I dye only the bottom of the neck. I even cut the middle section out and dye it if I need that size feather.

Buck tails can be a problem. I try and get bleached white tails. The tails that you get that are greasy, can be a problem to dye. The best thing here is to soak them in an Ivory liquid and water solution. Rinse and re-soak until they are not greasy. They might still turn greasy when you dye them because of the heat of the dye bath. If so then wash them again after dying.

Black is a very hard color to dye. I do not even attempt this color. I have never succeeded. I just buy what I need dyed black. You can control the color you get by the length of time that you leave your materials in the dye bath.

Rit dyes do not have a vivid color most of the time. Add a handful of table salt to the dye bath and the color will be more vivid.

Use white vinegar to "Set" the dye.

While the material is in the bath, add a cup or two of vinegar to the bath to set the dye. Use Rit dyes to tint your body materials. These dyes work very well on v-rib, mono, diamond braid and most of the rest of the materials that you use for bodies. You can get some very nice effects using this method.

One last item. Be very nice to your wife prior to and after any dying you do in the kitchen. If you are like me, you will make a mess.

Dying deer hair can be a problem. I generally cut the pieces into squares about 2"x 2". You will have to check these a lot. The dye will take on the outside and the tops of the hair. You will have to check to make sure that the dye has gotten into the inside of the square and the base of the hair. Again, do not overheat. Deer hair takes longer than most other materials.

If you want to dye rabbit or rabbit strips, be very careful on the heat. Too much heat will cause the hide to stiffen up and break. Use hot tap water. That is plenty hot enough.



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## Book Review

by Bruce E. Harang of the Smoky Mountain Fly Fishers of North Carolina for the FFF ClubWire

### Trout Stream Fly-Fishing

by Harry Murray

Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR, 2003

103 pages, softbound, illustrated, color

suggested price \$9.95

This is a book small in size but big in its being able to get a fly fishing beginner catching fish. Physically the book is 4 by 6 inches so that the beginner can take his text book with him on stream. It is also very inexpensive to purchase so there is no need to fear getting it wet or losing it. That is where smallness stops however. Within this small framework the author has assembled a tremendously large and excellent body of fly fishing know-how to get the beginner up, out, and catching trout.

The book is directed to teaching a beginner how to fish small and medium sized trout streams. In order to make sense of this the author first clearly defines the types of trout water he is going to talk about and then discusses the trout he is going to teach the reader to catch. The book then moves to general topic chapters on fly tackle, fly casting, trout foods, reading water, and spotting trout. Along the way Harry provides the reader with some clear insights to fly fishing truths that don't seem to be taught anymore. For example the author reminds us all of the simple fact that fly size governs the line size

and the line size governs the rod weight. And the clear logic of Charlie Brooks in teaching that presentation is everything and the fly fisherman's job is to find that one spot in the stream that allows for the best presentation of the fly to the trout. Casting is covered in two and one half pages of text and two illustrations. The few knots needed to start fly fishing successfully are clearly described and illustrated. The basic gear and its relevance are also well described in just a couple of pages. In other words, the beginner is given what is needed without the catalog of bells and whistles that only confuses.

The final three chapters teach specific strategies for fishing in the early season, the late spring/summer season, and the fall season. With detailed text and great color illustrations showing excellent methods of dry fly, nymph, and streamer fishing for each of these times of the trout fishing year.

The production in full color and the excellent layout is simply amazing for a book, which will cost you less than ten dollars.

If you or someone you know wants to learn to successfully fly fish for trout this little jewel will do the job. This book presents a well defined goal and then provides a clear concise plan that allows for reaching that goal. It will get the beginner started, be a good companion, and allow the beginner to succeed in catching some trout. That is its purpose and it does that well. For the beginner, this book is worth far more than its cost.



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## 3 Steps to Fresh Lines

by Steve Schweitzer from *On the Fly*, the monthly newsletter of the Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette, courtesy FFF ClubWire

It pays to clean your fly line after every 3-5 usages or when you've fished particularly muddy, dirty, weedy or mossy water. I just had to retire a fly line I purchased in 1997 and have used consistently for much of my fly fishing over the years. I estimate the line has seen over 150 outings. I wouldn't have had such good luck with the line had I not taken care of it.

### How to Tell if a Fly Line Requires Cleaning

It's not too difficult to tell if your line needs cleaning, look for these clues:

- You feel micro-grit on the line as you strip it in
- For floating line, the first 10 feet or few meters of line doesn't float any longer
- The line retains coil memory
- The line has small cracks
- The line feels brittle

If the latter two observations above are noticed, the bad news is that the line is on the last legs of life. The good news is a cleaning and re-invigoration of the line may add another season of use before you have to replace the line.

### Materials

The materials are simple:

- Mild dish soap
- Clean rag
- Fly line dressing (discussion on this topic below)
- Line winder (optional)

### STEP 1 - Soaking

Draw about a gallon or a few liters of hot water in a sink

Add just a few drops of mild dish soap. Don't overdo it! All you need is enough to make a few bubbles and help loosen debris. Too much soap will leave a film on the fly line which may help it sink. (not good for floating lines!)

Strip out all the fly line IN LOOSE coils in the sink, ensuring each coil lies on top of the previous. This will help prevent the line from knotting up as it is cleaned in the next step.

Allow the line to soak until the water becomes luke-warm; about 15-30 minutes or so.

### STEP 2 - Cleaning

Taking a clean, moistened rag in one hand, draw the fly line from the sink through the rag.

Apply mild pressure with the hand holding the rag to ensure the line is being "stripped" of all the debris and dirt. You'll know if you have enough pressure by hearing the line "squeak" through your hands.

LOOSELY coil the line on the floor at your feet in preparation for dressing the line with conditioner and allowing the line to dry for a few moments. TIP: as you draw line through the rag, stretch each arms length section as you would a leader, to straighten out the coils that have built up.

### STEP 3 - Dressing

- Using a line winder, if you have one, makes applying line conditioner easier, but is not necessary.
- Taking another dedicated rag used for applying line conditioner, soak the rag with conditioner.
- As the line is wound on the winder, apply the line conditioner in the same manner as the line is cleaned in the step above.

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Don't be afraid to be generous with the line conditioner, it's the stuff that will help protect the line in future uses.

### **Dirt Be Gone!**

One fly line can hold a lot of dirt as show on the rag is used to clean the fly line in this example!

### **Fly Line Dressings**

Many different manufacturers produce and sell fly line dressings. So, don't be afraid to try any one of them. But, I have found over the years a particular product, not even designed for the fly fishing industry, works quite well in cleaning and dressing fly line. I like to use Rain-X windshield dressing. It is safe for plastics, as it clearly says on the bottle. Rain-X does a bang-up job of repelling water on windshields for months on end, so why wouldn't it work for fly lines? I have used Rain-X since 1996. Never had I had a fly line become brittle or "melt-away" as some fly fishers may warn you of. I'm a believer in its use. There may be other products on the market that work just as well. Just one word of caution: be sure the product is safe for plastics. If it doesn't say that, they don't even venture in trying it on fly lines. Products that are silicon based are your best bet. Silicon is fly line friendly. Fly lines are delicate, expensive strips of plastics and polymers that won't tolerate chemicals which can break down the coating, be careful in choosing alternate line dressings not intended for fly lines.

## **Fishing Strategies: Gray Water**

*by Roger Maler, FFF Southern Council President*

Before a fly is selected or a cast is made you must first evaluate the optimum potential of your piece of water. Those who are unsuccessful spend too much time casting to unproductive water. This is worth repeating! Those who are unsuccessful spend too much time casting to unproductive water. If you have made several casts (max of 5) to a holding place and you know the presentation was done well without a bump, MOVE TO ANOTHER SPOT. I can't tell you the number of times I have watched a fly fisher stand in one spot for 4 or 5 hours only to carp about the poor fishing back at the parking lot or even more incredulous say, "he or she had no luck."

What is gray water? Simply, it is a potential holding spot (maybe no larger than a bushel basket) where the water is deep enough to prevent you from seeing the bottom. The water is not dirty only deeper. These are always my first targets. Do not beat up these spots with dozens of casts, 1 or 2 good presentations, depending on the size, should be enough to determine if it holds trout. When you hook-up or get a rise put this spot in your memory for later that day or another. If a rise to a dry does not hook up, recast to this fish as it may take the fly on the next cast or two. Similarly, if you get a bump streamer fishing without a hood up, release a few feet of line and allow the fly to drift back to the fish, works 50% of the time. I always leave these small pockets after taking a fish to allow another to replace him in that hold. Larger gray areas can produce several takes but don't be greedy, move on, let someone else work that area later.

## **Big Winners at the NCFE Holiday Dinner Mega Raffle**

**Dick Erickson**

**Don Van Buren**

**Jack Wallingford**

**Stan Marsh**

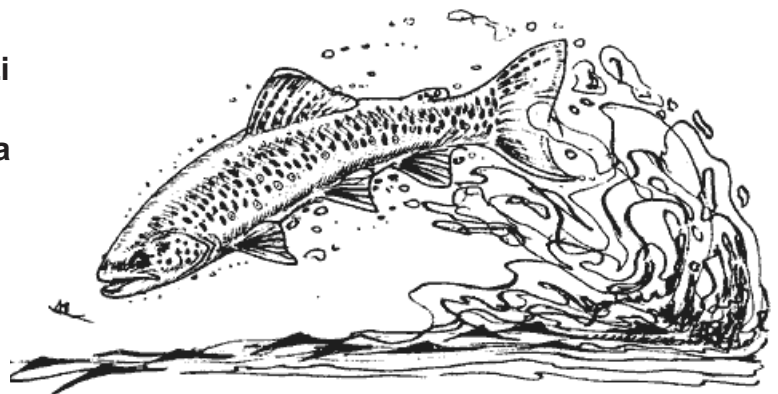
**Dave Tolhurst**

**Joe Mizik**

**Mike Crouch**

**Mario Renzi**

**Paul Oleksa**



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# Fly of the Month: Charlie Brooks' Montana Stonefly

by Jim Abbs - courtesy FFF ClubWire

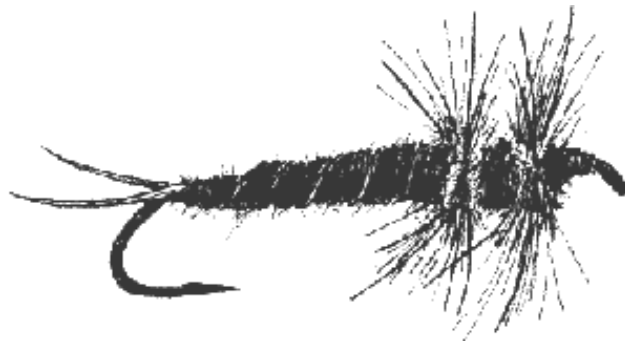
Retired U.S. Air Force Major Charles E. Brooks spent over 25 years just a short distance from what some consider the best trout fishing in America, Montana's Yellowstone River. Over that time he fished, developed new fly patterns, fished, improved some old fly patterns, fished, wrote a few fly fishing books and fished some more. The Brooks Montana Stonefly Nymph is one of his many contributions.

Brook's innovations came largely from prolonged periods of observation, research and collection. He was one of the first fly anglers to put on a diving mask and enter the world of the feeding trout. One of his discoveries came from watching drifting stonefly nymphs and how trout responded to them underwater. The common way to present a nymph – whether mayfly, stonefly or caddis fly – is dead drift. This technique is aimed at simulating a nymph that is drifting naturally in the current of the stream – and most importantly drifting at the speed of that current.

Brooks made two critical discoveries in these early observations. First he observed that as nymph drifts into the trout's field of view, the trout is usually interested and will approach it at once – unless the nymph “behaves” in a decidedly unnatural manner or appears to deviate from the actions of normal insects. Obviously if the insect moves slower or faster than the current, or moves erratically, it is ignored or rejected. This first observation confirms the ideas

of many other fly fishing authors. However, the second thing Brooks observed was that natural insects drifted near the bottom and while the current was the moving force, they stayed upright – with their backs up and their bellies toward the bottom. Their bellies were never seen by the trout.

Apparently, naturally drifting nymphs maintain some control over their drifting position. By contrast, he observed that



artificial nymphs rolled over and over, revealing a whirl of rotating back and belly, usually with different colors or shapes. When this happened, Brooks noted that the trout would “flare wildly away, and usually stayed away”. Importantly, most nymph artificials are tied with a distinct top and bottom. In fact the original Montana Stonefly pattern has a black body and top of the thorax, but the bottom of the thorax is yellow.

In interpreting his observations, Brooks noted that he commonly got more strikes on a woolly worm – which does not have a two-toned body – than he did on more exact imitations of a stone fly with a different-colored belly and back. He reasoned that a two-toned body turning over unnaturally caused flies to be rejected by

trout. For Brooks, designing a better stonefly nymph thus involved tying a pattern that would look the same no matter how it turned and twisted. The Brooks Montana Stonefly – to use his term – “is tied in the round”. Specifically, as described in the tying instructions for this pattern, the legs are found on both the top and bottom of the fly and there is no distinction in color or material between the bottom and the top of the fly. While

Brooks offered this innovation for stonefly patterns on western rivers, there is no reason to expect trout (or insect) behavior to be different in other places. Indeed, there now are a number of fly patterns tied this way, with Charlie Brooks as their inspiration. Interestingly, this improved pattern is easier to tie than one with a distinct back and belly. Try this modification with your favorite nymph pattern.

## MATERIALS:

- Hook: Mustad 9672 or equivalent 3X long, in sizes 4-8, depending on stonefly
- Tail: Six fibers of a raven or crow primary, tied in forked manner
- Rib: Brown flat nylon monofilament
- Body: Black fuzzy yarn, four strand
- Hackle: One brown dyed grizzly and one regular grizzly, with hackle fibers stripped off one side of each.
- Gills: Gray or white ostrich herl wound at the base of the hackles
- Thread: 3/0 black monocord

## TYING STEPS

- Tie in thread behind the hook eye and wind to the hook bend. Lacquer thread on hook shank.
- Tie in tail fibers and split to form a forked tail, three fibers on each side .
- Tie in monofilament ribbing and body yarn
- Wind thread forward to eye break off. Lacquer shank again (Note: for larger flies such as this, Brooks felt that the best way to build a durable fly was to lacquer and lay the dubbing or yarn down on the lacquered surface; he used the same technique-without dubbing wax-for fur).
- Wind yarn to eye, back to bend, forward to the eye and back to the base of the thorax (about 2/3 distance from bend to hook eye). Tie off yarn, tying in thread at the same time.
- Wind rib forward and tie off.
- Tie in one strand of ostrich herl and both hackles by the butts. Strip fibers off lower side of both hackles.
- Wind two separate turns of hackle (as shown), one at the base of the thorax and one half way between the base of the thorax and the eye. The two hackles should lie against one another. Tie off the hackle.
- Wind ostrich herl at the base of the hackles and tie off.
- Spiral thread forward and finish head large and lacquer well.

## Tying One On

*Mike Huffman - Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers*

When I hear the term purist, the hackles rise on the nape of my neck. When I hear an individual apply the term to himself, I dive out of laughing distance and look for the least harmful direction to vomit. Purity, even as a concept, is heavily suspect at least in the latter part of this century. After all, even the driven snow has some hereditary acid rain content. So at best we are dealing with a relative issue and not an absolute.

I won't use commercially raised worms. I won't throw a plug with more than six treble hooks. I wouldn't touch a spinning rod. I don't tie with any of those synthetics (except maybe nylon thread, mylar tinsel, and a few non-bone fish hooks). I only fish dry flies upstream. and only at certain times. "Are we to suppose that the purist of the pure simply false cast, waiting for a trout to leap free of the water and snatch their virgin undampened offering out of the air" Why not? Hell, that would go a long way toward explaining those days we got skunked.

Secretly, I believe self-proclaimed "purists" are retreating from some preexisting state of being they're embarrassed about. In their sleep they're tortured by visions of finding themselves naked, on opening morning, ankle deep in the most popular corn hole on the river with a tangled spin cast outfit in their hands, and without their pipe or even their Latin Thesaurus. An angry mob is closing in around them, including all the classmates they snitched on in school, threatening to pummel them senseless and leave the carcass for the crawdads and bluegill to pick clean.

The whole condition would be pretty humorous if it wasn't for the fact some newcomers to the sport are actually put off by such buffoons. I found myself amongst a few last year on the fly fishing only stretch of a Connecticut river. As luck would have it, I caught and released a couple of nice browns. When I arrived at the car, I was approached by two of these well appointed and expensively outfitted fellows. Recalling that I hadn't seen them catch any fish, I casually laid my vest over the keeper ring of my rod, and braced myself for some interrogation. Well, after engaging in some talk about the cost of their equipment, how the Fish and Game Department hadn't been stocking enough, in relation to the income and import of the "average" angler in these waters, they showed nymphs, and other assorted and quite trendy offerings. Then they dropped the question. What was I using? When I produced the somewhat mangled #6 bright purple woolly buggler there was a spastic moment of silence, and a slight shifting of weight to their rear leg, as if it was Kryptonite or something. They just didn't quite know how to handle it. I could have only guessed what they were mumbling to each other as they ambled away, but I had the giggles all the way home.

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## Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

January 7, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Steve Gossage	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
March 3, 2004	NCFE Fly Tying Marathon	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
March 10, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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