



# THE TAUT LINE

www.ncff.net



## NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH COAST FLY FISHERS

June 2002

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## The Taut Line is Online.

At the May Board of Directors meeting, the Board unanimously approved placing *The Taut Line* newsletter on our website at www.ncff.net. As I write this article, there are still a couple of bugs to work out regarding printing from the website, but the entire newsletter is there for all the world to see.

*The Taut Line* will now appear on the website around the 20th of each month, so you can view it online before you get your paper copy in the mail. We have done this to maximize our viewing audience, and to allow for greater exposure time when we are promoting a special event. Also, this will allow prospective members to learn about our events almost two weeks earlier than before. Take a look at it and let me know if you have any suggestions.

## Election Results for 2002-2003

### Officers

President - Don VanBuren  
 Vice President - George Vosmik  
 Treasurer - George Shuffert  
 Secretary - Dave Tolhurst

### Directors

Communications Director - Joe Valencic  
 Acting Conservation Director - George Vosmik  
 Acting Membership Director - Mike Skoczen  
 Programs Director - Mike Skoczen  
 Raffles Director - Lenny Jagoda  
 Director at Large - April Beates  
 Director at Large - Mike Chmielecki

The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) who is solely responsible for its content. The Taut Line is published ten times yearly from September through June, under the direction of the Director of Communications, NCFF. All inquiries should be addressed to:

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

*The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) is an affiliate of the 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*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S QUILL



My first year as president of NCFE has been very challenging and extremely rewarding. The cooperation and support from so many of you that helped me achieve the goals set for the organization has been heartening. The list of people to thank is very long and I don't want to leave a single one of you out, but I know that each of you will fall into one of these following special categories:

1. The staff of Penitentiary Glen and the Lake Metroparks have provided NCFE with a home. They go out of their way to support our programs and our mission, and it's hard to say where we would be without their support. Thank you for welcoming us.
2. The NCFE volunteers (and their families) who diligently respond to our recurring monthly programs, ad hoc committees and special programs have made them the success that they are today. None of these programs work without someone taking charge and others helping them along. Thank you for volunteering.
3. The membership of NCFE who show up for the meetings, support the raffles and special programs, and are willing to do whatever is needed whenever they are asked, all help to keep this club alive. The attendance of 50% of our membership at our monthly meetings is outstanding and says that we are doing things right as an organization. Thank you for your continued support.
4. The members of the Board of Directors and Liaisons to the Board have shared in the leadership of NCFE. Their willingness to give of their time and talent to further the mission and goals of NCFE is admirable. Thank you for your guidance and insightfulness.

NCFE is a stronger club this year because of the efforts of everyone listed above. We have a solid treasury and are setting goals to increase our financial position so we can begin funding additional programs in the future, and possibly a scholarship fund. Our monthly programs are well attended and will continue to be supported and promoted through our Taut Line newsletter and the website, and membership continues to increase because we are meeting the expectations of the fly fisher and fly tiers in our area. These things are all the result our efforts for which we can all be proud.

The Board of Directors has re-elected the Officers to a second term, and the entire Board is looking forward to the new club year. The Board welcomes its newest members, April Beates and Mike Chmielecki. April and Mike will be Directors at Large while they become acclimated to the Board, and their help will be most welcomed.

Much work will be done over the summer to get programs in place for next year, and we will be evaluating what we did well in the past year, as well as what we could have done better in an effort to better serve the needs and wants of the members of NCFE. If you have some ideas for new programs, contact me or any member of the Board. They are all listed on the last page of the Taut Line and on the website.

I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer, and look forward to seeing you back for the September member's meeting. Watch the website for any breaking news and updates over the summer. If time permits, we may also have a mid-summer issue of the Taut Line to let you know what's going on. It all depends if Joe Valencic ever gets a job! He's beginning to believe you work harder when you're retired than when you were employed.

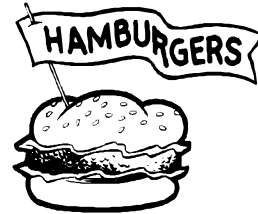
*Don Van Buren*

## JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### Annual Membership Picnic

## When?

Wednesday, June 5, 2001  
5:30 P.M. Until Dark



## Where?

Helen Hazen Wyman Park— Lake County  
Metroparks. (Directions below)



Bring a covered dish or your favorite dessert to share with all. The club will supply Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, condiments & pop.

George Vosmik & Dave Pollack will provide a casting clinic for anyone to attend. George is a FFF Certified Casting Instructor, and this is a chance for the new members to get a free lesson in a true clinic environment.



**Directions:** Take I-90 to Rt. 44 and go north to the Rt. 84/Mentor/Painesville exit. Turn right (east) on Rt. 84 for 2.5 miles to the five-way intersection of Rt. 84, Rt. 86, Bank Street, State Street and Cummings Rd. Make a sharp right onto Rt. 86 (south). Helen Hazen Wyman is about a mile down the road on the left (east)



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Sun: Noon – 5 PM

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### NCFF Favorite Fly

*James Wood Bucktail*

Tied By Dave Tolhurst

Hook	Mustad 3906 or 3906B	Size 8-12	Thread	Black 6/0
Body (Rear)	Yellow Medtun Chenille		Wing	Fine White Bucktail
Body (Front)	Blue Medtun Chenille		Head	Fintsh Nymph Fly Style

FRONT TO BACK



TIE IN CHENILLE  
ADVANCE THREAD  
TO FRONT →

②



FORM CHENILLE BODY  
APPROX. 65% OF HOOK  
CHUNK →



THREAD ADVANCE  
TO REAR TO SECURE  
BODY CHENILLE

TIE IN BUCKTAIL  
WING - ALLOW BUCKTAIL  
TO SPIN AROUND  
HOOK TO FORM  
WING

④



TIE IN CHENILLE FOR  
FRONT BODY/HEAD

⑤



BUILD UP CHENILLE  
TO FORM LARGE  
FRONT BODY/HEAD  
TIE OFF

⑥



*Dave Tolhurst*  
5/1/02

### NCFF Favorite Fly

#### "Beaded Caddis"

Tied By Dave Tolhurst

- Hook *Mustad 37160 Size 8-14*
- Thread *Black 6/0 Option-Thread color to match or contrast bead color*
- Head *Colored Bead*
- Thorax *Use Dubbing of choice. Peacock Herl. Krystal flash. or whatever*
- Body *Several colored Beads*
- Butt *Small dubbed ball (Just enough to hold body beads secure)*



*Dave Tolhurst*  
5/17/02

### LAFONTAINE AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY AWARD

"Each angler must decide for himself how deeply he wants to become involved in entomology. Even the most casual study of aquatic insects, however, makes the investigator a better fly fisherman. The benefits are roughly proportional to the amount of work devoted to understanding the biological rhythms of the trout's habitat." Gary LaFontaine

The Federation of Fly Fishers, a nonprofit organization of fly fishers, fly tiers and amateur entomologists announces the creation of a grant to honor Gary LaFontaine and the aquatic entomology he loved and spent his life studying.

Gary spent decades exploring the world of aquatic entomology. Learning what characteristics of the emerging caddis fly pupae attracted trout and the perfect dry fly to use, proved to be invaluable fishing tools. In recent years his focus moved especially toward the life cycle and habitat of mayflies and stoneflies. With the creation of this grant, he and his friends hope to encourage the next generation of entomologist to continue his work.

This \$500 grant will be given to a graduate student (M.S. or Ph.D.) doing a research project in aquatic entomology. A resume, a short synopsis of the project, and letter of recommendation from his or her faculty advisor are requested for each candidate. Please Email Susan Halblom, FFF VP of Education, at: DavidHalblom-bugtyer@worldnet.att.net or mail to 4315 Ashby Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50310 by July 15, 2002.

### EDUCATION FORUM

FFF VP of Education Susan Halblom will present the 2nd Annual Education Forum at the 2002 FFF International Show and Conclave in Livingston, Montana on August 7th. It will be held at the Livingston High School from 3PM to 5PM. This year we are looking for FFF clubs and members who would like to speak on an education program in their club or council. She will be speaking on some of the programs available in the 2002 FFF Resource Handbook and the Boy Scout Merit Badge in Fly Fishing. Also on this year's program will be a speaker from Cast for Recovery, a program for women with breast cancer. If you'd like to sign up, please email Susan Halblom at: DavidHalblom-bugtyer@worldnet.att.net

### WEB REVIEWS

I recently spent time on a website that can be located at [www.landbigfish.com](http://www.landbigfish.com). The site covers a wide range of fishing activities and has a very good section on fly fishing. There are over 100 articles online, and if you look around you will find information on knots, fish identification, hook charts, and many more entertaining subjects. In the features section you will find some level and stream flow information. You can get licensing and regulation information for all 50 states and even order licenses online if you so choose.

There is another very interesting section which contains about 25 or so chapters from Doug McNairs book "Fly Fishing for the Rest of Us" which outlines good basic information for beginning fly fishers.

(by David Dodson of the Arkansas Flyfishers)



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See  
Don or Gary



### Fly Special Program

By Andy Setlock

I would like to thank the following members who have tied flies in May for our program:

Joe Valencic—Trout

There's still time to get flies in for the June meeting. Turn in your flies and get your name in the drawing for a \$25 Gift Certificate from Gander Mountain, compliments of NCFE. If you have turned in your flies, you are already entered in the drawing. Also, you need not be present to win. If you have any questions, call me at 440-944-4557.

*Andy*

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L to R Don VanBuren, Jack Gartside & George Vosmik.

We all enjoyed Jack Gartside's presentation at the May Member's Meeting. His humor and expertise are truly gifts. Several members have asked where to get CPF feathers (Chicken Poop Feathers), so Jack was kind enough to send us the address:

Charlie Collins  
436 Kinner Hill Road  
Pine City, NY 14871

Also, the source for marabou (wholesale only) and lots of other stuff is:

Hobbs Feather Co., Inc.  
202 W. Fourth St.  
W. Liberty, Iowa 52776

## Welcome New Members!!

The following new members have recently joined NCFE.

### Joe Fink

Please take time to introduce yourself to Joe and make him feel welcome to NCFE.

Also, we welcome Andrea Scott back to NCFE. It's good to have you back.

*Mike*



## THE FFF ANNOUNCES A LIFE MEMBER DRIVE

We have arranged with our friends at Sage Rods and Ross Reels to put together a tremendous package for new life members to the FFF in 2002. If you have ever considered becoming a life member of the FFF, this offer could be just you've been waiting for.

This year's campaign includes a 4 piece Sage 694 XP rod. This is a top of the line 6 weight travel rod that is suitable for most freshwater applications: bass, trout fishing the big waters of the west, perhaps even summer steelhead fishing. This is an in-line, fast action rod. The reel chosen to match the rod is Ross's Gunnison 3 Platinum Reel. The reel will be engraved with the FFF logo to commemorate your decision to become a life member.

The retail value of the rod and reel, together with the individual life membership in the FFF, is \$1,270. With this special offer, the cost is only \$750. Couples wishing to take part in this offer can get a joint life membership in the FFF together with 2 Sage rods and 2 Ross reels for only \$1,250 (a value of \$2,306).

This campaign is limited to the first 100 to sign up. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Sorry, payment plans are not available for this special offer. Contact the national office in Bozeman with your order, a request for an application or any questions you may have at (406) 585-7592.

## WANTED

### Contributing Writers to The Taut Line

As we wrap-up a great year of fun and fellowship, I want to thank all who have contributed articles to the past ten issues of *The Taut Line*. Your first-person accounts of tips, techniques and outings have been well received by the membership, and I wish you all a safe and fish-filled Summer. Before we know it, it will be September and we'll be back to our monthly meetings with great speakers, Favorite Fly, Beginners Fly Tying and new issues of the newsletter.

I would like to invite all of you this Summer to consider writing an article or submitting your tips and techniques for future issues of *The Taut Line*. We have many new members who will benefit from your experience to become better tiers, casters and all-around fly fishers, and can keep your writings to refer back to when they have questions. Also, your articles will be added to the website list of articles for all the world to see.

If you have an article or pictures for the September issue, you can e-mail them to me at [joeval@core.com](mailto:joeval@core.com).

*Joe Valencic*

## FFF ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Bozeman, Montana** -- The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is pleased to announce the selection of Jim Rainey as Executive Director. Rainey assumed his duties on May 1st.

FFF is a *grassroots* organization dedicated to enhancing the fly fishing experience for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. "We have some 11,000 members, organized in clubs and regional councils throughout the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa," said FFF President Greg Pitts. FFF was formed in 1965 by a group of visionary fly fishers who believed the sport and resources that sustain it could best be advanced and protected if fly fishers banded together in a national federation. They articulated a simple but powerful objective: "This alliance will give conservation minded flyfishers unity of purpose, collective strength and a means of quickly exchanging ideas and information."

"The Federation had prospered over the succeeding 37 years, but our Board believed it was time to elevate FFF's stature to a par with similar outdoor recreation and conservation organizations," added Pitts. The Board developed an ambitious but sound business plan that included hiring an executive director to bring continuity and professional management to the Federation's programs. "We were looking for someone with an outstanding non-profit management background; a passion for fly fishing, the outdoors, and conservation; a proven fundraiser; a communicator who could heighten public awareness of the accomplishments of FFF's dedicated volunteers; and a leader who could inspire our volunteers to even greater achievements."

Rainey has spent his professional life in public and non-profit service. Before joining FFF, he was a Senior Major Giving Officer for the US Military Academy, personally raising over \$14 million to benefit West Point's academic, athletic, and leader development programs. Rainey served as Executive Director of the Outdoor Writers Association of America from 1994-1998, where he worked with OWAA members to promote and advance the craft of "communicating the outdoors story." Most of his professional life was spent as an Army officer, serving from 1969-1994 in military intelligence assignments worldwide and as Assistant Professor of Military History at West Point. Volunteer contributions include service on the boards of two Trout Unlimited chapters; fishing instructor for Army forces in Europe; and advisor to the Cadet Fly Fishing Club. Jim and his wife Meg have three daughters and one grandson.

"I am very honored that the Board selected me as FFF's its Executive Director," said Rainey. "I can promise the leaders of this fine organization my strongest professional efforts and advice. To the members, I pledge tireless and selfless service in meeting your goals and expectations. And I am deeply conscious of the legacy all of us who love and enjoy fly fishing owe to the 'giants' of our sport who had the courage and vision to establish this Federation."

## NCFE Members Support Stream Cleanup Projects

On May 4th and May 11th NCFE members turned out to assist in cleaning up the banks of the Chagrin and Grand Rivers. Both weekends had good weather, and lots of trash and debris was removed from the banks of both waterways. Names of our members can be found on our website with more details of the effort, and below are a couple of pictures of some of the volunteers who participated.

Our long distance volunteer this year was David Rice who traveled from The Wilderness Center in Wilmot, Ohio. The Center learned of our cleanup from the NCFE website, and David drove two hours each way to help us out. He is a member of The Wilderness Center's Fly Fishing Club, and they are on the web at [www.wildernesscenter.org](http://www.wildernesscenter.org).

Special thanks goes to the following businesses and organizations:

**Grand River Tackle** who supplied trash bags for both efforts and food for the Grand River effort.

**Chagrin River Salmon Association** for manpower and food for the Chagrin effort.

**Stamco Industries** of Euclid - Heavy duty disposable gloves and cotton over-gloves for both events. These were a bigger hit than heavy duty garbage bags. Thanks!

**Steelheadquarters.com** for advertising both cleanups on their website.

**Steelheadalley.com** for advertising the Chagrin Cleanup on their website.

**Noodlebagger.com** (Laszlo Zala) for organizing the first Chagrin River Cleanup event in 2001, and promoting it again in 2002.



Volunteers from the Chagrin River Cleanup



NCFE Volunteers enjoying lunch made by CRSA.



Volunteers from the Grand River Cleanup



Terry Dickerson Cooking up the dogs.

## Whatever it Takes!

By: Joe Valencic, NCFE

After helping my twin brother replace a hot water tank on a recent Sunday (it started leaking at 2:30 in the morning) I suggested we finish the day with a little bluegill action in a private pond near his home where he has permission to fish. Being a Scoutmaster in his community for many years, Matt has access to some really nice private ponds and lakes.

The weather was sunny all day and had warmed the water in the shallow end of the pond. I knew the action would be good during the last hour of daylight, so we headed out...me with my fly rod and he with his ultra light spinning rod. I tied on a #14 Elk Hair Caddis to my 6X tippet and immediately started catching some big pre-spawn gills, and he was catching small to medium size bass with a 1/8 oz. chartreuse rooster tail spinner. This had the makings of an action packed evening of catch & release for both species.

After catching about a dozen big gills, Matt saw how much fun I was having with the fly rod and asked for a fly to replace the spinner he had lost to a submerged log. I looked at his rig and asked him what he was planning to do with my hand-tied custom-made fly. His response was... "shut up and give me one of those flies." I chuckled, gave him a #10 Elk Hair Caddis, and watched him tie it to his 6# K-Mart monofilament. He then clipped on a 1" round red and white bobber about 24" above the fly, and cast it into the area where I was catching the gills. All I could think was; "... you can take the fisherman off the bucket, but you can't take the bucket out of the fisherman." I think he was born with a 5 gallon bucket on his butt and a Zebco 202 in his left hand.

"SPLATT" went the bobber when it hit the water and a huge ripple went across the whole area we were fishing. I thought his severely un-orthodox methods would be the end of our catching big gills, when all at once I saw this oversized fly get sipped in by a gill larger than my hand. The fight was on as the gill turned broadside to the bank and started a run that placed a good curl in his 5 foot ultra light rod. In short order he landed and release the fish, looked at me with that "I told you so" face, and cast the weird setup back into the same area. After twitching the bobber a couple of times to give some action to the fly (and send more ripples across the still water), another big gill sipped the caddis from the surface and took off running. All I could do was laugh and get back into the action with my fly rod..

We fished until it was too dark to see, and went back to the truck for the short drive home. He offered my fly back when we got home, and I told him I didn't think I could put that fly on the end of my fly line, knowing where it had been.

I chalked this experience up to the resourcefulness of a lifelong Scout, and filed it away for the next time I get in a pinch without my fly rod. It's amazing what works when you're desperate for some big bluegill action.

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### QUOTE:

"The true purpose of a fly rod is to prevent its bearer from being arrested for vagrancy, for the delight of trout fishing is not the full creel but things seen and people met. A roughly dressed man idling with a rod in his hand is an angler; without it he is a vagabond."

*An Honest Angler - The Best of Sparse Grey Hackle.* The Lyons Press

# Schedule Of Upcoming NCFF Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PLACE/TIME</u>
June 5, 2002	Annual Picnic New Officer Introductions	Helen Hazen Park 5:30—Dark
June 12, 2002	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00—9:00 PM
July & August 2002	No Meetings - Summer Break	
September 4, 2002	Membership Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 6:30—10:00 PM
September 11, 2002	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00—9:00 PM

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## 2002-2003 NCFF Board of Directors & Officers

PRESIDENT:	Don Van Buren	(440) 635-1165	COMMUNICATIONS:	Joe Valencic	(440) 255-8216
VICE PRES:	George Vosmik	(440) 333-6133	RAFFLES:	Lenny Jagoda	(440) 259-5382
TREASURER:	George Shuffert	(440) 272-5449	PROGRAMS:	Mike Skoczen	(440) 944-0592
SECRETARY:	Dave Tolhurst	(216) 529-1405	AT LARGE:	April Beates	(440) 237-3758
			AT LARGE:	Mike Chmielecki	(216) 362-9231

**North Coast Fly Fishers  
P.O. Box 312  
Painesville, Ohio 44077**



**[www.ncff.net](http://www.ncff.net)**