

the taut line

the newsletter of the north coast fly fishers



Volume 17 Issue 10

June 2004

In this issue:

FPQ	1
2004-05 Speakers Lineup	1
June Membership Meeting	2
Picnic Silent Auction	2
CRSA Learns to Tie	3
River Cleanups Update	3
NCFE Pins	3
Summer Outings	3
Favorite Fly	4
Presentation Casts	5
Fly of the Month	5
Cleaning Bodkins	6
Secretary of Interior Recognizes the FFF	6
Better Knots	6
Tribute to a Leader	7
Schedule of Upcoming Events	8



From the President's Quill

To all NCFE Members

This will be my final column "From the Presidents Quill" and I would like to take a moment to thank the many NCFE Members, Directors and Officers who contributed and assisted me over the past three years. Space does not allow me to thank each of you individually and memory could cause an omission or two, but along the way I have tried diligently to thank each of you following your efforts.

During the three years of my term as your President, our members have always stepped up their efforts to make our Club fun, exciting and a leader among fly fishing clubs. Your efforts have made our club a "model" for other Clubs to follow and emulate.

Our efforts to increase our revenue, improve our programs, step up our outings and in general

make our Club fun and exciting have been successful because of you the Members, Directors and Officers who performed wonderfully.

Oh, yes, there were glitches along the way, but nothing that was not handled correctly and with understanding. For the record, I have thoroughly enjoyed my three terms as your President and look forward to helping and assisting your new President, Doug Crouch and his team of Officers and Directors, as "Past President".

Each of you should be proud of your Club. Our Club is well recognized and represented by its membership. This recognition comes from other Clubs, our Great Lakes Council (GLC) and the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF).

To all a sincere thanks for your efforts.

Donald R. Van Buren

2004-2005 Speaker Program Lineup

Our new club year will start off with a nice lineup of speakers. We still have a couple of gaps to fill in, but we're in pretty good shape through the end of the year. Here's the lineup as it stands today:

September 2004 – Joseph Cornwall, VP of The Ohio Smallmouth Alliance

October 2004 – Les Ober with a new program he's developing over the summer.

November 2004 – Dennis "Rivergod" Potter

December 2004 – Holiday Dinner, Jack Gartside

January 2005 – OPEN

February 2005 – Jeff "Bear" Andrews

March 2005 – Annual Fly Tying Marathon, No Speaker

April 2005 – Kim Boal from Polk, PA on Dry Flies (Tentative)

May 2005 – OPEN

Details on each of these speakers and the programs they will present will be on the website after the June picnic. Check there over the summer to see if we've filled the last of the slots.

The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc (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
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Painesville, Ohio 44077
Attn: Dir. Of Communications

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) is a 100% Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Its purpose is to promote fly fishing as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing. We are committed to provide education in the best practices and techniques of the sport, including fly tying, fly casting and fish and water conservation. Our members are committed to maintaining a current membership in the FFF



**2003-2004 NCFF
Board of Directors & Officers**

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Doug Crouch(216) 221-2994

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

June Membership Meeting

Annual Membership Picnic

Wednesday, June 2nd, 2004

5:30 P.M. Until Dark

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.

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) side at the bottom of the hill.

Picnic Silent Auction Item

Interested in a collector's item Bait Casting Reel? The Club has a Daiwa Millionaire 5HS casting reel in its original box, with bag, case, instructions and its warranty (somewhat expired) in like new condition.

Make your bid at the Club Picnic and take home a treasure. Value is about \$60.00 according to the experts at the Rodmakers' Shoppe. Income on the reel will help our contributions to worthy organizations.

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CRSA Learns to Tie

by: Joe Valencic, Communications Director

NCFF carried our Basic Fly Tying program on the road to the Chagrin River Salmon Association (CRSA) in Eastlake as part of our "Club Collaboration" efforts. CRSA members have been interested in learning to tie flies so Don VanBuren, George Vosmik and Joe Valencic teamed up for an evening of lessons on May 11th.

Twelve people showed up and spent two hours learning the basics of thread control, simple knots and all the good stuff we teach in our BFT program each month. By the end of the evening each person had tied a couple of "Inchworms" and a "Wooly Worm" that they could take home with them. It's hoped that some of these folks will continue to pursue the hobby because of our teaching.

The participants ranged in age from their 30's to well past the age of reason (Ha, ha.) Everyone had a good time and we've been invited to return in the Fall to teach them a couple of Steelhead Flies. We're looking forward to returning.

River Cleanups – Update

Dick Erickson, Mark Mumau, Mike Colo and his two children, and Joe Valencic represented NCFF at the Chagrin River Cleanup. The Chagrin River Salmon Association had about 12 of their members involved, and together we gathered about four pickup truck loads of trash from Lakeshore Blvd to Daniels Park. We had a nice lunch of hot dogs cooked by CRSA, and all had a good time.

The Grand River Cleanup was canceled due to lack of participation. Mark Mumau, Jon Hamilton and Joe Valencic represented NCFF, and that was the extent of our participation. Terry and John from Grand River Tackle were also in attendance.

Because of the low response rate from our members, NCFF will not be listed as a promoter of this event in 2005 and beyond. We will still be able to participate, but will not take a leadership role in the future. The Tribe has spoken!

NCFF Cloisonné Pins

The Board of Directors had commissioned a cloisonne NCFF lapel pin as an ongoing fundraiser project and for a way for members to display their affiliation with the club. These four-color pins are 1" round and are now available at the monthly meetings for \$5 each, or by mail order for an additional \$1.50 to cover shipping and handling. The pins are pictured on the website home page at www.ncf.net, and there is a link to the Order Form that anyone can print out and mail with their check to the club's P.O. Box. Delivery is expected to take 1-2 weeks from when we receive your check.

Summer Outing Schedule

Directed by: Roger Grant

Trout

Where: Slippery Rock Creek
Pennsylvania

Date: Saturday June 19

Time: 9:00am till?

Smallmouth Bass

Where: Grand River

Date: Saturday July 17

Time: 8:00am till?

Pond or Lake Fishing

Where: To be named at a later date.
Check our web site, www.ncff.net, for updates

Date: Saturday August 14,

Time: 8:00am till?

Contact: Roger W. Grant

(216)475-5259

rwgrant@ix.netcom.com

If you plan on attending please make available a phone number, email address where you can be contacted.

Lunches: Depending on location.

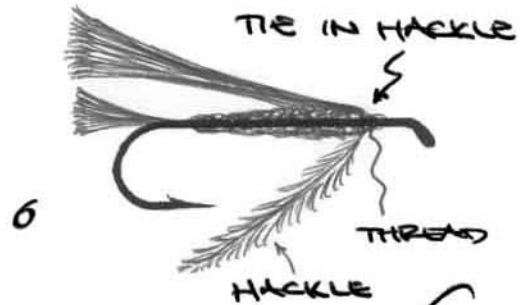
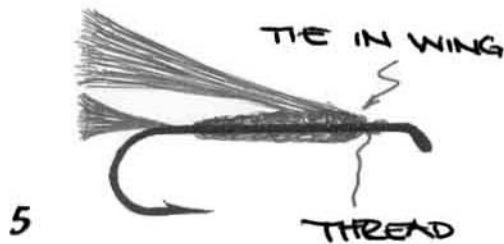
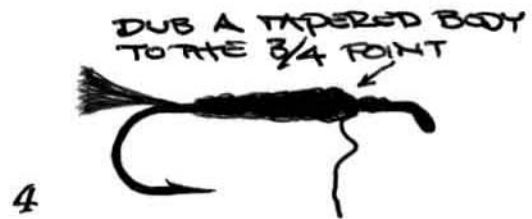
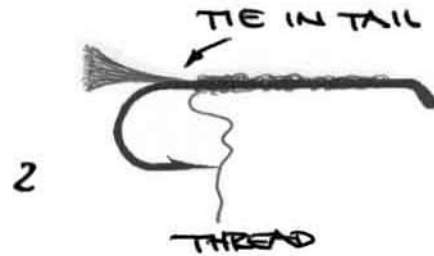
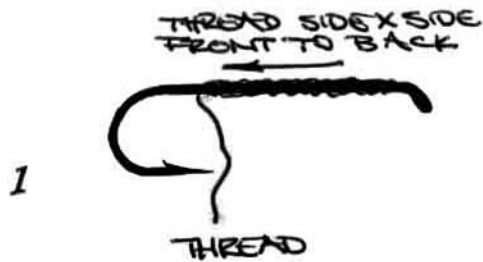


NCFF Favorite Fly

"Yellow Sally Stonefly-Dry"

Tied By Howard Joe Valencic

Hook	Mustad 9672 Size 14	Thread	Pale Yellow 6/0 or 8/0
Tail	Red Yarn		
Body	Pale yellow-Olive Fur or "Super Fine" Synthetic Dubbing		
Wing	Bleached Deer or Yearling Elk Hair		
Hackle	Ginger		



Overview of Presentation Casts

by Paul Arden (www.sexyloops.com) courtesy FFF ClubWire

Overcoming drag (where the fly is caused to drift differently than it would if it wasn't attached to any line; which basically means that the fly line is traveling at a different rate to the fly) is one of the most challenging aspects to fly casting.

Drag problems occur every time we cast across a river. Although some anglers suggest that drag is not a problem with subsurface methods, this is most definitely not the case. Although, there are circumstances when drag can be used to our advantage, such as swinging nymphs out of a current - a great taking zone, on the whole drag is artificial and should be avoided at all costs.

Often there are several solutions to the same problem; it's always interesting to see how different anglers cope given the same set of circumstances - it tells you a little about their psyche, sort of a Freud of the river banks

Getting the fly to land first:

Tuck Cast

The most obvious question is not "how?" but "why?" ... well there are two situations where I'll use this cast:

The first is when fishing pocket-water. Boulder strewn rivers often contain so many varying currents that they present a bewildering puzzle. A simple solution to give ourselves that little bit more drag-free time is to land the fly before the line. So long as we can get fairly close to the pockets (and we can often get right up behind them) we can chuck the fly into position and attempt to keep the line off the water - of course the line will land eventually, but hopefully drag will have been delayed long enough for the deception to have been completed.

The second has nothing to do with overcoming drag; rather it is all about creating attractive 'plop' noises. If we cast our fly to land first it is quite easy to overpower

the stop and get a nice 'plop' sound. Just like little bugs dropping off branches in high summer. Also useful for the cicada splash.

In order to get the fly to land first, the technique used is to cast the fly straight over the top of the rod with a slightly over-powered overhead cast, so that when the fly line straightens the extra energy causes the fly to flick downwards. There is an important refinement on this technique; it is how we apply the extra power: instead of stopping harder, stop the tip normally and just as the line is unfurling on the forward cast, lift (or pull back) the rod tip.

Although you can shoot line with this cast, you will have to feed the line through your fingers so that you can stop the line before you lift the tip.

Obviously you don't follow through immediately with the rod tip to the surface as this would negate all we have set out to achieve.

Fly of the Month: Emerging Callibaetis

by Bob Bates, courtesy FFF ClubWire

As Harold Patterson of Foster City, California tied this fly at the 38th FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Idaho Falls, ID he made two important comments. One was this is a style of tying rather than a pattern. So once a person is familiar with the style they may change colors etc. to match the mayflies in their waters. The other is that it was designed to be fished during the pre-emergence stage of a mayfly's life cycle.

Species of the mayfly Genus Callibaetis, also known as "The Speckled Dun" by many anglers, are multibrooded. That is that there are up to three or four hatches each year, and hatches might happen from May to October. Callibaetis are most important in stillwaters, but they can be found in slow water stretches of many streams. In many lakes the mayflies become smaller with each succeeding hatch. The

common name comes from the distinctly speckle wing markings on the spinner. Incidentally, don't worry about "Dun" in the common name: one definition of "dun" is "mayfly."

About an hour before hatching the nymphs become quite active. They gather in weed beds and swim back and forth to the surface. Eventually, they will hang in the surface film and begin their transition to a sub imago (dun). According to some authorities this transition can take seconds on warm dry days to hours on cool, cloudy, drizzly days.

Use a floating line and fish this pattern in the surface film. Depending on the situation, let it sit dead still or move it a little. Harold also suggested using a Power Bait method with a small split shot on the leader and something to hold it near the surface.

Equipment: Cleaning Bodkins

by Lars Christian Bentsen, courtesy FFF ClubWire

This weeks Tip is one that I've often read about in books and magazines. I've just never bothered to try it out for myself. Bodkins are always full of dried varnish, or even worse, set epoxy or super glue. Cleaning a bodkin from these substances is quite a nuisance and can be quite difficult, especially with epoxy and super glue. But Last month I held a fly tying course and one of the participants had done what I'd never gotten around to. Filling a 35mm film canister with steel-wool and drilling a small hole in the lid. Now, all you have to do is stab the bodkin into the steel-wool and run it up and down a few times, and it's clean. The steel-wool will remove anything including epoxy and super glue.

I'm sorry there's no picture yet, but the canister I had with steel-wool in it seems to be temporarily lost - anyway, I can't find it and will have to make a new one before I can post a picture. Try it out if you tie your own flies - it works great!

US Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton Recognizes the FFF

by Bob Wiltshire, FFF Deputy Executive Director

The coming 40th anniversary of the Federation of Fly Fishers is being widely heralded as a significant milestone in the effort to protect and preserve our aquatic resources and angling heritage. The attached file is a scan of a recently received letter from U.S. Secretary Of The Interior Gale Norton. It recognizes the FFF's "many contributions to the quality of our waters, the health of our fisheries, and the good fellowship and accessibility you have brought to fly angling".

Congratulations are due to every FFF member that has helped to be a part of developing the world's greatest fly fishing organization! Download the PDF of the letter at: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/downloads/Nortonletter.pdf>

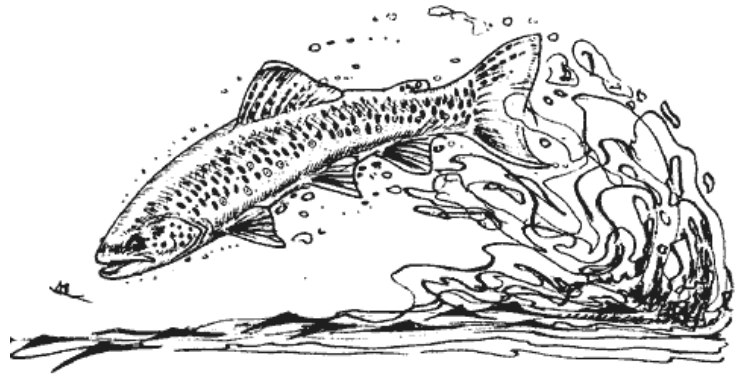


Techniques for Better Knots

from the Cordes, LaFontaine, Bradshaw Pocket Guide to Fly Fishing Knots, courtesy FFF ClubWire

This and many other Pocket Guides are available FREE with a new FFF membership! See www.fedflyfishers.org for more details.

1. Before snugging the knot tight, moisten it with saliva or water. This will cause it to seat more tightly.
2. For knots in stiff or heavy material, have a pair of pliers handy to snug the knot tight.
3. When the knot is properly snugged, trim the tag end close to the knot.
4. With tippet materials don't assume that the nylon of one brand is the same as the nylon of another brand without testing the materials first. If in doubt, stick with one brand for all your tippet material this is especially true for knots joining widely dissimilar diameters of leader material.
5. Do not attempt to create a burr in the tag end with heat. This can weaken the knot and damage the line or leader.
6. To straighten a leader, pull the leader taut and stroke it with your hand until it warms, then keep it taught until it cools.
7. To straighten a line, stretch it tight for 20 or 30 seconds.



National Fishing & Boating Week is scheduled for June 5-13, 2004. Events are being held across the country in association with this effort. Complete information can be found at www.NationalFishingandBoatingWeek.org

Tribute to a Leader

by: Joe Valencic, Communications Director

There have only been a couple of times in my adult life when I have had the privilege of working with an individual that I can truly say exhibited the qualities that makes a person a true Leader, and one of those persons is our new "Past President," Don VanBuren. Leadership is never easy, and all too often is criticized when perfection is not achieved, but it still needs be respected and recognized for the good that it accomplishes. Let me give a couple examples of Don's Leadership that has been at work for NCFE in the past three years.

Selflessness – This quality defines if a person is a Leader or simply a Boss. A Leader cares first for the well-being and growth of the people within his or her organization and secondly for the well-being and growth of the organization itself. Lastly for himself. You will rarely see a Leader taking credit for advancements within the organization, but rather the "reward" is always shifted to the individuals that actually labored to accomplish the goal. Don has publicly recognized many of you for the things you have done to advance NCFE, and if you look back on the 30 "From the President's Quill" articles that have been published, the credit has always been focused on the efforts of our members as we have achieved new milestones for this club. "Reward" is a recurring theme, and almost a mantra in Don's vocabulary.

Responsibility - By the same token, Don was always willing to take the heat if something did not turn out as planned. We all know how easy it is to point a finger when things do not go well, but Don chooses to take the Leader's role to "fix the problem" and not Boss's position of "fix the blame." It's harder to fix problems but infinitely more rewarding when the job is done.

Visionary – In June 2001 Don set goals to establish written policies, guidelines and procedures as a "document foundation" for NCFE, and so that subsequent Presidents would not have to reinvent the wheel with each new administration. Today there are job descriptions for all Directorships, program and policy guidelines, and complete "monthly road maps" for the efficient operation of each monthly member's meeting and each Board of Directors meeting. These documents have not only become beneficial to NCFE's smooth operations, but have become road maps for two newly established FFF Charter Clubs, Firelands Fly Fishers in Avon, Ohio and Grand River Fly Tiers in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Both organizations were directed to NCFE by GLC during their formation because of the solid document foundation we now have in place.

Fiscally Responsible - Don also set a goal of having at least one full year's operations budget in the bank in case of financial short-comings in the future. That goal has also been met, and in large part because of his vision for the annual event we know as "Expo." Did I mention Leaders often take risks? The first Expo was a big risk because it had never been done before, but Don had faith in his people to do a good job, and the rest is just history.

Motivational – Many of us can remember being asked by Don to be on a committee, on the Board or to perform some assignment that we may not have felt adequately qualified for. We can also remember being guided and mentored through the process, and ultimately feeling pretty good about having performed well for the club. Don has a knack for finding talent in our organization and then motivating and encouraging individuals to achieve their full potential; a potential that some of us did not know existed within us at all.

These are just a few of the qualities and talents that Don has shared with NCFE in his three years as President. He has also spent the past year preparing for a change in this Leadership as he passes the gavel in June to Doug Crouch as our new President. Doug is well prepared to take on the responsibility of this role because of the time Don has invested in him, and because of the natural talent that Don saw in Doug from the beginning.

Some people will snicker and maybe even take exception with this discourse on Don's accomplishments. That's their prerogative, but I believe taking that position is unfair and probably somewhat narrow minded. The accomplishments speak for themselves and cannot be denied, and I believe they need to be recognized and applauded. NCFE is a more mature club today because of the Leadership skills and the tenacity that Don applied during the past three years.

Please join me in thanking Don for his three years of service to NCFE as President and for the lives he has touched and enhanced in the process. NOW, Don, you can tie flies and go fishing. Assignment complete!



Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

June 2	Picnic & Introduction of New Officers	Helen Hazen Park 5:30 PM - Dark
June 9	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
August 11	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
September 1	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Joseph Cornwall	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
September 8	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM



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