



THE TAUT LINE



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH COAST FLY FISHERS

March 2002

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We Have Arrived In Space!!

(Cyberspace, that is.)

After much discernment, investigation and hard work, NCFF has established a presence in cyberspace, taking her place among the many FFF clubs that already have an Internet presence. Our new web address is:

www.ncff.net

Our domain officially became public on February 13th when the Board of Directors unanimously approved activation of the site. Many weeks of design and editing went into the final product so that it would be easy to navigate and easy to read.

The site is small in size right now, but will grow in the coming months to include the depth of expertise that resides within North Coast Fly Fishers. We have designed the site to also act as a recruitment tool, so you can feel confident to send a prospective member to the site to learn about NCFF. There are E-Mail links for all Directors and Officers, as well as an application form that can be downloaded and mailed in. There's even a links page to other FFF clubs within the Great Lakes Council (GLC), and this area will be expanded in the future.

The Webmaster for the site is Joe Valencic. He can be reached at webmaster@ncff.net if you want to pass along Kudos and ideas.

It goes without saying that we will take the same careful approach to the development of this communications tool that we do with the Taut Line.

At the request of the membership, we will have an area of the site dedicated to "Members Outings." This will become active in the near future, and will be managed by our new Outings Chairman, Mike Skoczen. From the Outings pages you will be able to get details about future outings, as well as sign-up right from the site via the E-Mail link. You can send your comments and ideas to Mike at outings@ncff.net.

Stop by and see what the site has to offer. For additional information see **NCFF.NET FAQ's** on page 5 of this issue.

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, and is 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

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 wa-



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S QUILL



First let me thank you for supporting the NCFE Bylaws revision that was developed by Dave Pollack (Our NCFE Bylaws Liaison) and backed by the NCFE Board of Directors. This support allows us to go forward with the membership program to cover a Calendar year, and make it easier for the members to identify their term of membership, as well as simplifying the membership program Mike Skoczen has developed.

Next I would like to cover concerns voiced over the Fiscal year. Nothing has changed, and our Fiscal year remains August 31, 2002. This date primarily affects the NCFE Board of Directors and any reporting they must comply with regarding our Tax Exempt Status.

Two additional dates of importance are the Annual Membership Meeting (May 1, 2002) and the Annual NCFE Board Meeting (May 8, 2002). These dates must be identified and approved by the NCFE Board of Directors and have been them at their most recent meeting on February 13, 2002. These dates will change next year but will fundamentally be within the same time frame. The Annual Members meeting will be the first Wednesday of the month of May and the Annual Board Meeting will be the following Wednesday, of each calendar year.

Copies of our NCFE Bylaws, in booklet form, will be made available to each NCFE member in good standing as soon as they are printed. We will have 200 copies printed, and are working to keep the costs low. We should have a target date of completion by the March 6, 2002 Fly Tying Marathon.

The Conclave entrance fees for non- volunteers (Anybody who has not signed up) remains the same as in past years. Remember this is a joint fundraiser with the Lake Metroparks Organization.

Alert! Dave Tolhurst was very generous to purchase a Commemorative Fly Tied by Fred "Bear" Andrews (\$25.00) and contribute it to our Conclave Raffle. A Conclave raffle committee member lost this gift during our 02/06/02 membership meeting, and, if anyone has found such a fly please return it to Dave or any Board Member! We appreciate your honesty & integrity.

This Board has done much work quietly, efficiently and without fanfare, and none is better illustrated than the development of our new Web Site www.ncff.net. Nice job Joe Valencic for your efforts.

I have, and will, continue to respect and recognize our current NCFE Board of Directors and our other member volunteers who have worked hard for this organization without seeking recognition or personal gain. They are dedicated to the growth and improvement of our Club. We as members should take the time occasionally to thank them for their generous contribution of time and talent.

Don Van Buren

The Fly Tyers Corner

By Donald R. Van Buren

The March 6, 2002 members meeting will be our Third Annual "Fly Tying Marathon". The objective of this event is to provide interaction with fellow NCFE club members and to share information on Fly-Tying and Fly-Fishing. The event will involve individual members of NCFE Club demonstrating their fly-tying ideas, techniques, patterns, and exchanging Flies.

The entire evening will be dedicated to fly-tying. Participants not involved with tying flies are encouraged to bring their personal flies to exchange with other members.

Seating will be of your choice as you check in with your vise, equipment, materials, etc. Beginner Fly Tyers may utilize NCFE equipment and will be given the choice of sitting at the normal Beginning Fly Tying table or mixed in with the experienced Tyers.

NCFE Club will supply Refreshments, but will not support or validate any fish stories.

The Favorite Fly and Basic Fly (Beginners) tying segments will be conducted as usual as will the normal NCFE monthly Raffle.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Annual NCFF Fly Tying Marathon

**Wednesday, March 6, 2001
 Penitentiary Glen Reservation
 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road
 Kirtland, Ohio**

This is an evening dedicated to Fly Tying, Fellowship and Fun. Bring your vise and materials to tie and share your favorite flies with members of NCFF.

Take this opportunity to renew friendships and hopefully make some new ones while doing an activity that many of us enjoy. It's also an opportunity to learn some new patterns from members you may never have tied with.

The club will supply refreshments.

We will still have our Beginners Fly Tying and Favorite Fly segments starting at 6:30 for those who wish to participate in them.

Below are some tiers from last year's Conclave.



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NCFE Favorite Fly
"Ultrareal Stonefly"
 Tied By Eric Nekantshi

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Hook | Mustad 9671 or equivalent | Size 6-10 | |
| Underbody | .025-.030 lead wire | Tail | Dark Brown Goose Blots |
| Abdomen | Latex Strip | Thorax | Dark Grey Ostrich Herl |
| Wing Case | Mottled Hen Hackle | Legs | Black Round Rubber legs |
| Head | Finish Nymph Fly Style | | |

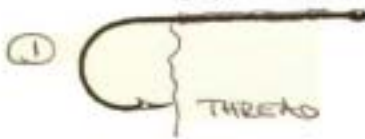


HEN FEATHER

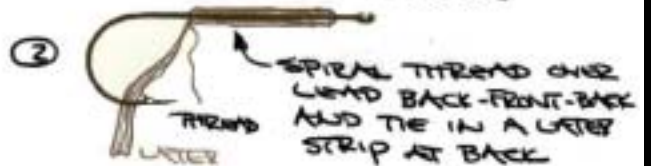


BURN OR CUT WING CASE

WRAP THREAD SIDE X SIDE



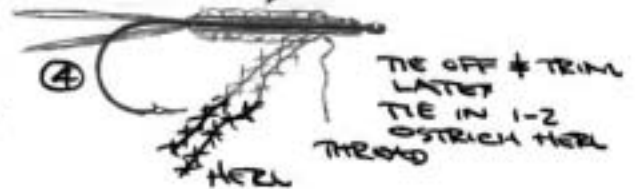
PLACE LEAD WIRE ON EACH SIDE OF HOOK SHANK USE ZAP-A-GAP TO SECURE



TAKE ONE TURN OF LATEX THEN TIE IN TAIL (BIOTS)



FORM LATEX ABDOMEN



TIE IN 3-RUBBER LEGS USING FIG. 8 WRAPS



FORM HERL THORAX (AROUND & BETWEEN LEGS)



NOTE "A" COLOR TOP OF ABDOMEN WITH PERMANENT MARKING PEN & COAT WITH CLEAR NAIL POLISH

TIE IN 1ST WING CASE



TIE IN 2ND WING CASE & FINISH HEAD



NOTE "B" NO NO EYES OPTIONAL

NCFF.NET FAQ's

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. Who can be contacted from the website?

A. The entire Leadership have *private* E-Mail links from the website. If you send them an E-Mail you can be assured they will personally receive the message. These are POP 3 accounts, and NOT a "Dump" account. Lenny Jagoda has his e-mail checked and forwarded by the Webmaster.

| |
|---|
| Don Van Buren— president@ncff.net |
| George Shuffert— treasurer@ncff.net |
| Joe Valencic — webmaster@ncff.net |
| Mike Skoczen — membership@ncff.net |
| — outings@ncff.net |

| |
|--|
| George Vosmik— vicepres@ncff.net |
| — education@ncff.net |
| Dave Tolhurst — secretary@ncff.net |
| John Lincoln — jmlincoln@ncff.net |
| (Nat'l FFF Director) |

Q. What can members contribute to the site?

A. We are seeking contributors to the following areas:

1. **Articles**— We are going to be posting articles written by our members that have been published in the Taut Line. The articles will receive the same editing that they get for the Taut Line. I have posted the articles received so far this year in electronic formats. If you had an article published in the Taut Line prior to Sept. 2001, and would like to submit it to the website, E-Mail the article to webmaster@ncff.net.
2. **Fly Tying** — We are seeking fly patterns tied by our members that work for local and nearby waters., or are just neat to tie. Please see the site for examples of how the pattern recipe is to be written, and include a digital picture in .jpg format. If you do not have a digital picture, arrange to get a sample fly to the Webmaster and he will generate the picture. (Flies will become part of the Webmaster's flybox, but *YOU* will become famous!)
3. **Gallery** — Some have referred to this as the Rogues gallery, but we really want to have the ladies contribute to this page also (we know they catch fish). If you want a note that the fish pictured was C&R, please let us know. As before, send your name, species, body of water (optional), C&R (optional) and digital photo to webmaster@ncff.net

Q. Will there be links to commercial websites?

A. At present we are formulating a policy as to what we want to place on our links page. We want to include links that support our convictions in how we promote our hobby, and we do not want to clutter the site with annoying banners that slow down page loading. All link suggestions will be evaluated closely before being included on this page.

Q. Will there be advertising on the website like we have in the Taut Line?

A. We currently have no plans to solicit advertising to offset the costs of the site. The operational costs are already very low for the website, and are part of the Communications budget. As with links, advertiser banners take time to load and slow down the efficiency of the site.

If you have more questions for the Webmaster, please send them to webmaster@ncff.net and I will answer them for you. Frequently Asked Questions will be answered in future issues of the Taut Line for the benefit of the entire membership.

Joe Valencic, Webmaster

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Owner

QUOTE:

Winter is the Angler's time to dream, and in his dreams his flies are right and his casts true. There are no hang-ups or snags in this winter fishing, no aching legs and wrists, no waders full of cold water. There are only trout.

- Howard T. Walden

Old Friends

By: Mike Skoczen, NCFF

Small ripples disturb the pond's surface as the small popper bounces off of a partially submerged stump and lands with a plop in the water. The ripples slowly fade away as the rubber legs begin to spread out and slowly wiggle on the water's surface. A short, quick tug on the line and the popper gurgles as it slides an inch or so across the pond's surface. Again the ripples slowly fade away as the rubber legs begin to spread out and slowly wiggle on the water's surface. This sequence repeats itself a few more times before it is suddenly interrupted. The water's surface violently explodes as the popper disappears in a flash (and a splash) and the leader begins to draw tight.

I raise the rod tip and set the hook and the fight is on. The violence of the take and the initial bend of the rod cause me to believe I hooked into a small largemouth bass. I soon knew I was wrong as the fish fought me by swimming back and forth in long bulldog runs out in front of me ... the telltale fight of a wonderful Bluegill.

Bluegill have a tendency to fight by turning that slab of a body broadside to the fisherman to exert extra pressure on the line. I can tell that this 'gill is a bit larger than average as it resists being brought to hand. A few minutes later, though, and I have won. I can barely get my hand around the fish as I lift it from the water; it must be pushing that one-pound benchmark, but not quite there yet. I quickly remove the hook from the 'gill's mouth and admire it for a second before returning it to the water. The fish hits the water and scoots back to the depths of the pond and I turn my attention back to that partially submerged stump and another fish.

I have landed a fair number of bass, trout, and steelhead throughout the short time that I have been fly fishing and have great memories of many of those fish. I have traveled many miles and spent many hours pursuing those fish. For every memory I have of a particular trout or steelhead that I landed I have two equally vivid memories of bluegill that either I have caught or have helped my niece or nephews catch. My nephew Kevin's first fish was a nice sized bluegill caught at a Metropark Kid's Fishing Derby. I still have the pictures. The first fish that my niece Kara caught on a fly that she tied was a Bluegill in my parent's back yard. The first fish I ever landed with a fly rod were bluegill.

A few years later I spent a great afternoon in a float tube landing big 'gill after big 'gill until the sun went down and chased me off of the water. I didn't really count, but I must have landed over two dozen ¾ pound plus bluegill that afternoon. I have actually landed more 18+ inch trout than I have one pound plus bluegill. Talk about selective fish! For me, bluegill are the old friends that are always there for me when I need to wet a line. They don't always get the attention that they deserve but they don't mind. They always welcome me back when I pay them a visit and provide me with more great memories. I can't wait for the weather to turn so I can get together with some old friends again.



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Request for help with the Membership table.

The membership director is looking for members who would like to volunteer some of their time to help with the duties of the membership table at the monthly member's meeting. All that would be required is a 45 minute block of your time.

The duties in question include greeting members and non-members, signing up new members, receiving membership dues from current members, selling promotional club items (patches and fly boxes), and other miscellaneous tasks. Your help will allow all members present the chance to participate in the fly tying events as well as an opportunity to socialize with those in attendance.

Those interested can either call the membership director for more information or just talk with him at the next meeting. Thank you in advance for your help.

Mike Skoczen
Membership Director

Fly Special Program

By: Andy Setlock

I would like to thank the following NCFE members who have tied flies for our program in the month of January:

Tom Conklin - Steelhead Flies

Mike Miller - Trout Flies

Herb Ramerman - Trout & Steelhead Flies

Mario Renzi - Trout Flies



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FLY FISHING QUIZ

1. In a double spey cast, the fly should land _____ of the caster, just before the final delivery.
 - a. Upstream
 - b. Downstream
 - c. In front of
 - d. Just behind
2. Which of the following are change of direction casts?
 - a. Double spey
 - b. Single spey
 - c. Tuck
 - d. Both a and b
3. When using circle hooks, the recommended hook-set technique is:
 - a. Raise the rod sharply
 - b. Move the rod above your head
 - c. Use a strip-set
 - d. All of the above
4. The Leisenring Lift is:
 - a. Only used to imitate mayflies
 - b. A method of nymphing
 - c. Used only with sinking lines
 - d. Effective with dry flies and streamers

Answers: 1. (b); 2. (d); 3. (c); 4. (b)

(by Liz Watson of the Northwest Women Flyfishers)

FLY TYING TIP

Just about everyone in the North temperate zone suffers from dry, chapped, rough skin on your hands and fingers during the winter months. Floss, threads, dubbing and tempers often fray as tying becomes more difficult because of this. Well your local stationary store or business supply store has a product called "Gatherette," a finger moistener for bank tellers and cashiers that works great for fly tiers. It contains glycerin, glycols and lanolin, and makes handling fragile materials a cinch, regardless of the season. Highly recommended.

(from the Rainland Fly Casters of Astoria, Oregon)

THE BUM

A bum, who obviously has seen more than his share of hard times, approaches a well dressed gentleman on the street. "Hey, Buddy, can you spare two dollars?"

The well-dressed gentleman responds, "You are not going to spend it on liquor are you?" "No, sir, I don't drink," retorts the bum.

"You are not going to throw it away in some crap game, are you?" asks the gentleman. "No way, I don't gamble," answers the bum.

"You wouldn't waste the money at a shop for a fly rod, would you?" asks the man. "Never," says the bum, "I don't fly fish."

The man asks the bum if he would like to come home with him for a home cooked meal. The bum accepts eagerly. While they are heading for the man's house, the bum's curiosity gets the better of him. "Isn't your wife going to be angry when she sees a guy like me at your table?"

"Probably," says the man, "but it will be worth it. I want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, gamble or fly fish."

This is our Application Page which can be accessed at:
<http://www.ncff.net/join.htm>

Seeing the Invisible

By Mike Skoczen
Membership Director, NCFE

I've been asked by fellow members about the responsibilities of our Board of Directors, and even questioned that myself when I was recruited to become a Board Member. The reason that question comes up so often is that our *behind-the-scenes* work is invisible to the general membership. With that in mind, here's a peak at the current Board of Directors.

Joe Valencic has done a tremendous job working as the Communications Director in his first year as a Board member. The Communications Director is responsible for all of the internal and external club communications; sounds pretty obvious, huh? But it's more complicated than it sounds, as well as a lot of work. In order for the Board to responsibly represent the club, we need to rely on timely and accurate communication with the members, sponsors, the FFF, GLC, other clubs, Lake Metroparks, print media, and several other sources. Joe is directly responsible for most of that communication, as well as assembling, editing and publishing the *Taut Line* newsletter. Those tasks alone are enough to take up one person's free time, but the recent addition of "Webmaster" will insure Joe doesn't find himself streamside anytime soon.

Another first year Board member who has also done a great job is our club Treasurer, George Shuffert. George is responsible for all financial aspects of the club, which include tracking all of the income and expenses of the club, dealing with the club bank accounts, tracking the individual program budgets and supplying the Board with statements of financial activity every month. Additionally, he makes recommendations to the Board regarding matters of short and long-term club investments in order to maximize our financial assets.

Returning to the Board after a few years off is club Secretary, Dave Tolhurst. Dave is responsible for documenting all of the club events. He takes notes at all of the membership meetings as well as at the board meetings, and produces the minutes of the meetings that become our club's history book. Without the efforts of the Secretary, information would get lost and the Board would have a difficult time accounting to the membership, as tasks and assignments could fall through the cracks.

Returning Board members Don Van Buren and George Vosmik provide the primary leadership to the club as they perform their duties as President and Vice President respectively. They are responsible for guiding the club and the Board, assigning tasks and responsibilities, representing the club to the outside world, and supporting Board Members with their tasks. The President is also responsible for conducting the membership and Board meetings and making sure the agendas are followed.

Lenny Jagoda has returned as Raffle Director, and is responsible for activities supporting the monthly raffles as well as the annual Mega Raffle in December. Lenny acquires the items and sells the tickets for these raffles, and is responsible for this primary source of income for NCFE.

This brings me to my position as Membership Director. The Membership Director is responsible for validating the status of the membership, as well as maintaining and publishing the club roster, adding new members to the club roster, submitting new members to the FFF and communicating with them regarding the incentive program, manning the membership table at membership meetings and other club functions, and other related tasks.

In a nutshell, that is the current Board and their *general* responsibilities. There are a few other Board positions that remain open, so a few of us are pulling double duty. In addition to his duties as President, Don is also assisting George Vosmik as Education Chairman who is also working to procure club sponsors in addition to his duties as Vice President. I am acting as both the Membership Director and the Outings Chairman, and as mentioned before, Joe handles Communications & Internet tasks.

I hope these snapshots provide some visibility to the invisible work these members perform for your club. I would like to thank them for their perseverance and dedication in providing quality programs to this club, and for supporting my membership duties while finishing my Master's Degree. Now that I've graduated and returned to my club duties, I hope to be able to return the favor.

If any of this sounds interesting to you and you would like to find out more, the Board invites you to contact any of them to answer your questions or to attend a Board meeting. We embrace continuous improvement in all our programs, and welcome more volunteers to share their time and talents in providing quality programs and insightful leadership for the North Coast Fly Fishers.

Can Dead Fishermen Still Speak?

By: Joseph E. Valencic, NCFF

Unequivocally, yes. I know this because they speak to me on a regular basis from the books that line my shelves. Books by men who have taken their place in history and are considered legends of the sport, and men who have simply had the good fortune to learn to catch a few fish and get their stories published by a friendly editor or a lazy publisher who ran short of content in his publication. Either way, they got on paper and I've had the pleasure to read about their experiences.

One of my favorite books is *The Golden Age Of Fly Fishing*. This book is a compilation of stories from *The Sportsman*, a magazine published between the two World Wars, that carried stories of hunters and fishermen alike. The writers were men that waded streams that teemed with trout in the 20's and 30's, and were among the first in our sport to use dry flies in this country, but were extremely accomplished at fishing wets. They fished with lines and leaders that today are seen only in private collections and museum displays dedicated to fly-fishing, and with flies that were brand new creations to them, but are classics and 'go to flies' for us today. Many of them tied flies streamside using only their fingers for a vise, just so they could 'match the hatch' as closely as possible, and with the least amount of baggage in their vests. They were classified as artists by some, thinkers by others, and damned fools by those who never sought an elusive five pound browns trout with a 5 weight on a hot August afternoon. Whatever moniker they carried, we know them best as fly-fishermen with the same passion for adventure that stirs our spirits today.

While paging through this volume tonight, I re-read a story by the late John Alden Knight Jr. titled *Ocean Tides and Freshwater Fish*. In this article Knight describes his awakening to the effects of the sun and moon on freshwater fisheries, and his lengthy research of the subject. He ultimately published the Solunar Tables based on this research.

We've known about this theory for some time, and many fishermen apply these tables to the timing of their fishing trips. The Solunar Tables have been available for purchase since 1936, and many fishing publications actually print them today on a monthly basis. The most notable to me is in the pages of *In Fisherman* magazine published by Al Linder. The tables are straightforward and easily adjusted for your given time zone. I can say with confidence that they work most of the time, but I could never remember where I laid them when I needed to refer to them. That is, until I met Old Bill.

I met Old Bill while spending a weekend fishing and camping at Pymatuning Reservoir in 1975. I was at my campsite when Bill sauntered by just to 'jaw about the walleye fishing. I explained that I was not catching many fish, that the motor on my rental boat gave me fits all day, and I left my Solunar Tables at home and couldn't tell when the best time to fish was. It was not a good trip for me to that point. Bill explained that he hated to cook, and that if I would cook his food along with mine, he would take me on his boat and teach me to catch walleye without the Solunar Tables. I quickly agreed and took the rental boat back to the livery and made us some dinner which he ate like a starved man.

The next morning he told me to just make coffee, and that we would eat breakfast later. I was hungry, but didn't argue. We fished from 5:30 a.m. until 8:00 when the fish just turned off. He said it was time to eat, so in we went and had breakfast of scrambled eggs and fresh caught walleye. Bill said we'd be going out for the big ones around 2:00, and asked if I noticed what was going on when the fish stopped biting that morning. I said I had no clue what he was talking about, and he said he would explain in the afternoon.

At around 1:00 we walked around the heavily wooded campgrounds and he made me aware of what was happening in nature at that moment. For the next half hour I was shown nature coming alive. Slowly the squirrels started moving in the trees and the birds began singing. You could hear the ducks and geese on the lake and see the seagulls diving for surface fish. It was time to get in the boat and go fishing, and for the next hour we caught some of the biggest walleye I had ever caught, and for the second time that day we ate walleye cooked over an open fire.

Over dinner Bill explained that I didn't need to look at any fancy tables from a book for good fishing times because nature's book was open for me all day long. If I would notice when the birds and land animals were quiet, I could be sure that the fishing was going to be slow, and when they became active again, the fishing would pick up. It worked then, and still works today. It was so simple I just couldn't see it.

Bill is long gone along with John Knight, but they continue to speak to me when I notice the fishing slowing down. I look to nature for the reason, and she always provides the answers. I have shared this observation with dozens of fishermen over the years, and they too can hear the voices of fishermen who have gone before us. (I still peek at the Tables)

North Coast Salmon & Steelhead Guide

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Schedule Of Upcoming NCFF Events

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>PLACE/TIME</u> |
|----------------|---|---|
| March 6, 2002 | Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Fly Tying Marathon | Penitentiary Glen 6:30 PM 6:30 PM |
| March 13, 2002 | Board Meeting | Penitentiary Glen 7:00 PM |
| April 3, 2002 | Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly | Penitentiary Glen 6:30 PM |
| April 10, 2002 | Board Meeting | Penitentiary Glen 7:00 PM |

2001-2002 NCFF Board of Directors

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 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 | MEMBERSHIP: | Mike Skoczen | (440) 944-0592 |
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