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## Variations on a Theme

*by Jim Gavacs - NCFF*

At a recent meeting, I led the 'Favorite Fly' session. I demonstrated a simple pattern, which I had found to be very well accepted by steelhead. The reason I liked the fly is it required few materials, was very quick to tie, and caught fish (certainly a winning combination). I called it the 'Elk Creek Wet'. It doesn't really have a name, but I had to come up with something and since Elk Creek was where it first shone and it was shaped like a traditional wet fly, I figured that name fit as good as any.

It's a pretty simple pattern. Pheasant tail fibers for tail and body and a black marabou wing. Pretty simple! Well it was, except I was limited to the colors of pheasant tail feathers I could find.

The colors, which seem to be working the best for me this year (and I say this year because every year another color works better), are chartreuse and a robin's egg blue. The chartreuse I had and it worked well but I wanted to also try the blue with pattern. Well I could no find bright blue pheasant tail. Instead after searching all the vendors at the exposition, I ended up with saddle hackle and crystal braid in the appropriate shade of blue. So I tied up a bunch, haven't had a chance to fish them yet, but I'm pretty sure they'll work just fine. I was real proud of myself.

That is until I got together with my tying buddy. I was real excited to show this to him. I had found a blue material in a suitable shade. I could now make the Elk Creek Wet in this year's most productive colors. He looked at me and said "Jim, you know you could just have used a marabou feather and tied it just like you do your marabou streamer and throw a marabou wing on

it, AND marabou comes in just about every color known to man." This pretty much put into perspective my 'wonderful and original' pattern.

We proceeded to tie some in various colors. Then we added a couple of strands of crystal flash in the tail, then in the tail and wing. Then we realized that we could add some crystal flash in the tail, use the forward strands as a shellback and the bend it back and incorporate it in the wing. Not bad! We changed the material and gained about a thousand color variations. Used crystal flashes and added some sparkle and we still just needed three materials for the fly. And best of all, once you arranged your materials and warmed up, you could still put out a fly every 2 minutes!

We're very lucky in our club to have tiers who are practical, innovative, efficient, thoughtful, and able to think like bugs and best of all willing to share ideas. I have found in my years of fly-fishing that there are always new things to learn and old things to unlearn.

New things; in the use of different materials in new and innovative ways. I have always found the best stimulus for this is to be on a trip and have the wrong flies, BUT you of course have your fly tying kit with all the wrong materials. Or are they the wrong materials? Perhaps there are times we can 'think out of the box' and adopt the materials we do have to come up with a fish catching fly. I remember fishing the green drake several years ago. Couldn't get anything to rise on a dry.

***continued on page 5***



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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



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Clip art courtesy Dave Whitlock,  
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## March Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004*  
*Penitentiary Glen Nature Center*  
*8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.*  
*Kirtland, Ohio*

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

*Fly Tying Marathon*  
*(no speaker)*  
*8:00 - 10:00 PM*

*“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.  
Teach him to fly fish and you sell him rods,  
reels, and equipment for a lifetime.”*

*– Sandee Middleton*

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## From the President's Quill

The March 3, 2004 Membership Meeting will be our 5th Annual NCFF Fly Tying Marathon. It is amazing, and sometimes hard to believe, how fast time passes and events mature. Club traditions are built upon popular activities and events that appeal to and are supported by its membership. We are fortunate to have several events that fall into this category: our annual NCFF Conclave; the picnic (including the rain); our Favorite Fly Tiers program and its associated Fly Plate; and a relative newcomer but one that has a bright future, the Northern Ohio Fly Tying Exposition. These events are all energy dependent upon membership participation and volunteerism and I am proud to say that our Club does well in filling this important part of these events.

Back to our Fly Tying Marathon. This event was started to create and foster an atmosphere for NCFF members to interact with fellow club members, share information on fly-tying and fly-fishing and to exchange flies while enjoying a full evening dedicated only to fly tying. We encourage all members to take advantage of this time to learn about new patterns, techniques and materials as well as to exchange flies with fellow members. We do not do enough of this. The Fly Tying Marathon is a wonderful place to exchange flies and come away with new patterns, ideas, etc., as well as sharing your patterns. So bring some extra flies to share in an exchange of your choosing.

Seating will be random, check in, pick your table, set up your vise, equipment and materials and begin tying. Remember to bring a tying light and extension cord, as the lighting in the big room is not the best for tying in all areas. NCFF will have several multi-strip out-

lets and longer extension cords on hand to hopefully reach most everyone needing power. Please take care with your hooks so as not to drop them onto the carpeting.

Beginner Tiers may utilize NCFF Basic Fly Tying (BFT) equipment and will be given the choice of participating with the regular scheduled Beginning Fly Tying or mixed in with the experienced Tiers. Don't be afraid to take advantage of this situation, as most of our experienced tiers are willing to share and teach their methods, patterns and tricks of fly tying. This is a great opportunity to tie with and learn from a one on one setting. If you do not choose to sit and tie, you can still bring your flies and work the room exchanging your flies with others. Believe me this is a fun activity and you can collect some very nice fly patterns. As in past years NCFF will supply refreshments, but will not support, confirm or validate any fish stories. The Favorite Fly, Basic Fly (Beginners) Tying will be conducted as usual, as well as our popular monthly Raffle.

This is a wonderful time to donate a dozen or more of your flies to the club. These flies are sold at various events throughout the year to raise funds for the club and to display our clubs fly tying talents. If you care to donate flies, Connie Hodge will be available to collect them, simply store them in a plastic bag or if you already have a NCFF plastic box Connie will exchange your filled box with new one. Have a great time tying and telling stories. By doing so you add to the tradition of the event.

*Donald R. Van Buren*

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## Spring Steelhead Outing

Date: **April 3, 2004**

Where: **Covered Bridge Conneaut Kingsville, Ohio**

Time: **8:30am till?**

Lunch: **Depending on location.**

Contact: **Roger W. Grant (216)475-5259**  
**rwgrant@ix.netcom.com**

If you plan on attending please provide me with a phone number, email address where you can be contacted. Due to river conditions we may stay near Cleveland (Chagrin) or go into PA. That decision can not be made until close to April 3.

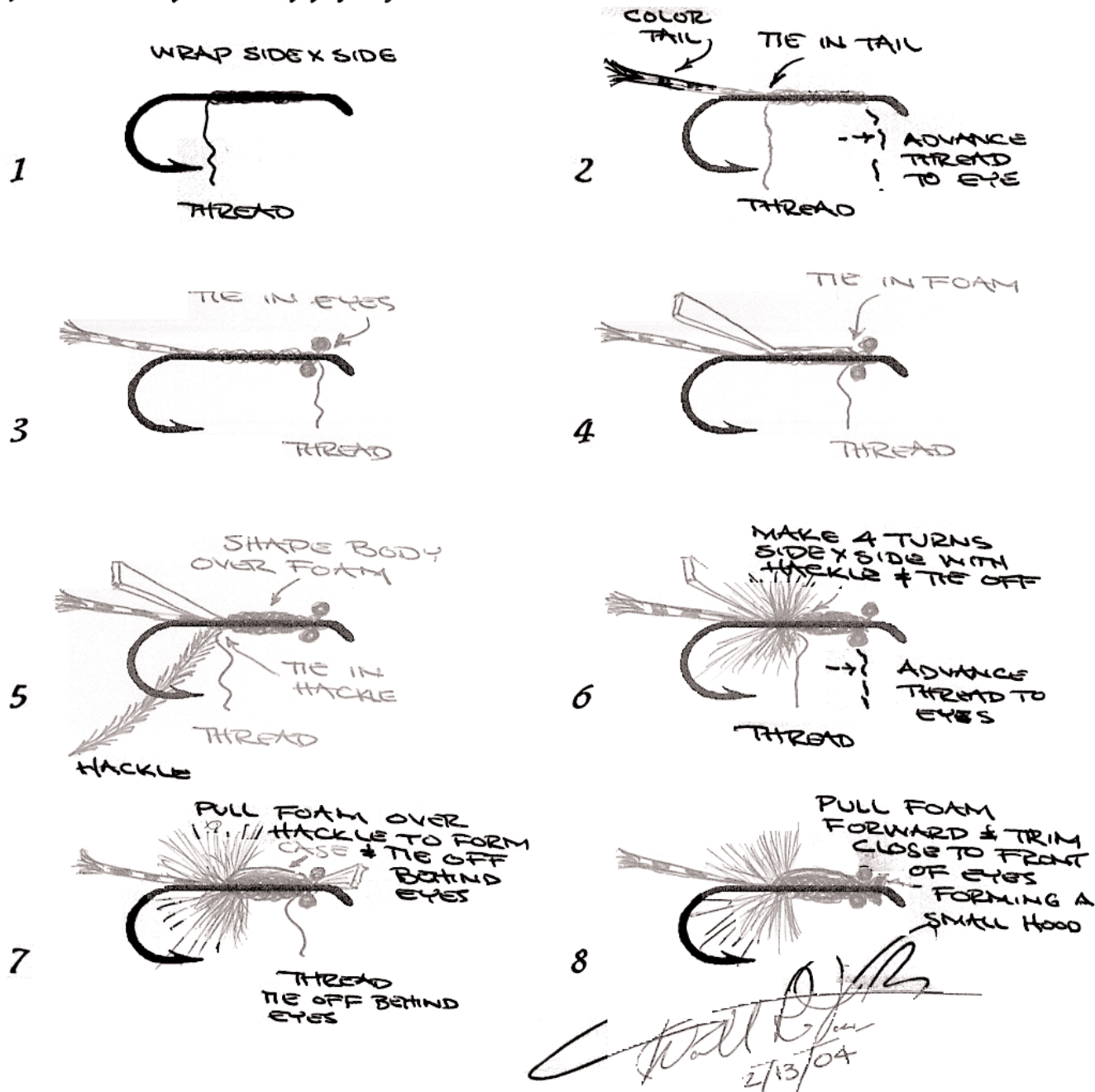
This will be a great outing since the steelhead will be actively spawning, and in numbers.

Directions: Interstate 90 to Rt. 285 Kingsville exit. North to Creek Rd. The covered bridge is east on creek road about 5 miles. Parking on left through bridge.

# NCFE Favorite Fly

## "Damsel Fly" Tied By Connie Hodge

Hook	Daiichi 1530 Size 12	Thread	Turquoise 6/0
Tail	Waxed Dental Floss (Oral B Superfloss) color with Sharpie Turquoise Marker & Highlight stripes with Permanent Black fine point marker	Wings	Grizzly Hackle
Body	Turquoise Thread	Eyes	Ovot's Damsel Eyes
Overcase	1/16" Turquoise Foam		
Head	Finish Dry Fly Style		



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## Fly of the Month – Rocky River Clouser Minnow

by Dave Tolhurst, NCFF - courtesy FFF ClubWire

I live on, and therefore fish the Rocky River most often. The Rocky is loaded with Northern Creek Chubs throughout the year and provide forage for a number of predator fish. They have a light olive back, a dark lateral line, and a cream colored underside. They grow to about four inches. Usually I'm looking for steelhead or smallmouth bass and the fly that has brought me the most success in catching these species is a Clouser Minnow style fly tied with a few variations. The streamer hook is covered with a pearl colored flat tinsel and I use maribou rather than bucktail. When wet, the pearl tinsel catches the light and appears like fish scales. The maribou has more action in the water than bucktail. You can fish this streamer from a dead drift to fairly fast stripping as long as it rides the bottom; especially with steelhead. The Rocky's bed is made up of slabs of shale, tilted as to catch a fly, tippet or leader as they drift by. Standing in the stream and using a sink tip line' cast down and toward a bank. Mend the line into the current and let the fly swing out from the shore. Begin to strip in one inch strips toward you. Hold after every few strips and let the fly swing from side to side in the current. When stripping past large rocks, drop the tip and let the fly back down in front of the pocket. If you get caught up, let out line to form a downstream bow. A sharp pull usually will back your fly out of trouble.

### Materials

Hook: Streamer, long shank, sized 8 to 4

Thread: Black

Body: Pearl tinsel tied over white floss

Top or wing: Olive maribou

Bottom: White maribou

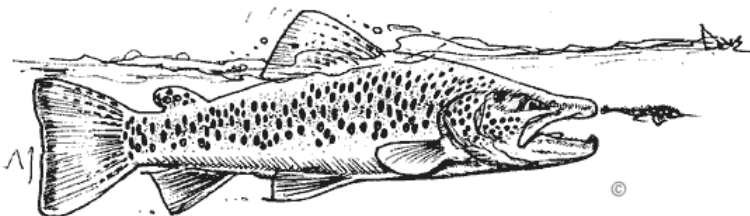
Lateral line: Black crystal flash

Weight: Lead eyes, usually painted black with red, red pupils.

### Tying Instructions

After tying on the lead eyes Clouser style, tie in tinsel and floss at the bend of hook. Move thread to a position behind the eyes. Wrap floss forward and tie off. Do same with tinsel.

Tie in small clump of maribou (little longer than hoof in front of eyes and take a wrap behind the eyes as well. Turn hook over and tie in few strands of crystal flash. Tie in olive maribou (longer than the white maribou) in front of eyes and form a neat head.



### Variations on a Theme – continued from page 1

But I did know that the drake nymph hit the surface and took off PRONTO! A dead drift wouldn't do. I needed a rocket. A Liesering lift with a conventional nymph wouldn't do. What I ended up doing was taking 4 pieces of peacock herl, folding them in thirds, tying them to 10 dry fly hook and put a dark hackle collar. The next night I caught several by just letting it drift along and pulling it to the surface where I knew a fish was waiting. Every now and again I come across this fly my box and think "Boy is that UGLY", and then I recall the circumstance this fly was born under.

Old things to unlearn. I guess it is easier today to get away from the 'gospel and tradition' of fly tying and fly-fishing. We now have so many different materials, colors and feathers 'engineered' for the characteristics we desire that just did not exist even ten years ago. On wings many tiers, especially of parachutes are saying to make your wings bright colors and man-made materials such as antron and Hi Vis. The fly floats better, has higher visibility and on dries wing color doesn't really matter. I have been tying them that way for several years and I have to agree with that.

Over the years, I have gone to expos, watched experts tie, watched my own friends and acquaintances tie, and seen the flies other fisherman have and are using. This has added new ideas, techniques and materials into my fly-tying repertoire. After a while the NEW and the OLD mix and blend together in 'Variations on a Theme'.

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# Reflections From The Rivers Edge

by Les Ober

It is Mid-March, the water temperature is in the low forties and the spring steelhead run is underway. You want very badly to shake off a chronic case of cabin fever. The weather is almost warm enough to be comfortable. However, one obstacle stands your way. On the north coast the month of March and high water go hand in hand. You look on the internet and the river is running around 700. You know from past experience that 3 to 4 hundred is just right for fly fishing. Your first thought is that the bait boys are going to have field day this weekend. You will probably read all about it on the internet. Caught, 40 on orange spawn sacks, 20 on night crawlers, and lord knows how many on minnows. What are your options? Drive all over looking for a stream that is low enough to fish or may be just tie some more woolybuggers and hope the water is better for fly fishing next weekend.

Last spring I walked into one of my favorite sections of the Grand River, experiencing the very same situation. The spring snow melt was almost over and the river was starting to come down. I checked the water temperature and it was around 45 degrees. The only problem was that the river was still high and badly stained. In the slack water, a size 12 chartreuse sucker spawn fly disappeared from view at 12 inches. Experience told me that there would be fish spawning even in these high off color conditions. The other guys on the river were having little luck with their indicator drift rigs. Now and then someone would hook up but often the fish was lost. The angler never knew weather the fish was fair or foul hooked. Over the winter I read about, and later tied up an assort-

ment of Spey flies. I did this more out winter boredom than anything else. When I sit down at the vise I like to experiment with something new. What I came up with was an over sized emerald shiner pattern. Knowing, that water clears first in the shallows and the riffles I moved to the head of the fast water and started to swing the fly across the current. The first swing was an instant hang up. With a little experimentation I adjusted the weight so that I bumped the bottom without hanging up. The more I swung the fly, the more I got the feel of the bottom. It was a neat way to fish, but still no strikes. I moved deeper into the riffle. I looked across riffle targeting pockets of slower water that might hold fish. About half way down the riffle I felt the rig stop. Damn another snag? Then I felt that little give in the line, that I have felt so many times before. Instinct told me to set the hook. Forty feet down stream a buck steelhead came roaring out of the water and the chase was on. The fish was hooked hard in the jaw. No foul hooked fish here! After 5 minutes the fight was over and I landed the first fish of the day on the swing.

The technique I used to catch that steelhead and many more over the course of the spring run is not new. In fact, it is the most traditional of all the methods used to catch steelhead. On the West Coast, fishing for steelhead in high water is a normal everyday occurrence. Along the coast of Lake Erie where the water levels tend to be more variable the most popular method of presenting a fly to a steelhead is the floating indicator rig. Developed by many and refined and modified by many more, this method has also become the crutch

that we lean on in most situations. Do not get me wrong it is a fine technique and it has its place. In moderate to slow river flows with 18 to 24 inches of visibility you can catch more than your share of steelhead using this technique. However, when the river is up and moving, with low levels of visibility, you may be in for long day if this is the only weapon in your arsenal. The problem is the fast water. If you take a cross sectional view of a stream you would see that the water moves faster on the surface than it does lower in the water column. This causes the indicator to skate along the surface, causing drag. The only way to counteract is to constantly check the indicator by moving it up stream. This maneuver can easily pull the fly out of the drift if you are not careful. This is the reason indicator fishing becomes difficult in fast water.

Generations of west coast steelhead-ers have developed techniques that work in high fast water. Those techniques are just starting to catch on around the Great Lakes. You might say we are finally getting into the swing of things. Unlike the indicator rig, where the presentation is more of an up and across, dead drift approach, the swing technique is a down and across current swing, presenting the fly in front of the fish. Last spring, I used a floating weight forward line with a short leader and enough weight to maintain contact with the bottom. In most cases I started with enough shot to hang the rig up. I then reduced to number of shot until the rig just bumped the bottom. The rod I prefer for this type of presentation is a nine and half foot fast action rod that allows me to feel the shot moving along the bottom. This rod also

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gives me better control of the heavily weighted line. The leader is usually no more than 7 feet long and often as short as 5 feet. The weight is placed at least 18 inches up the line from the fly. As the water clears this distance could be extended to as much as 3 feet depending on the conditions. Often I will place the shot just above the point where the tippet is tied into the leader. This holds the shot in place. The length of the tippet now becomes the distance between the split shot and the fly. I tend to use heavier tippet, at least 2X because the fish rarely sees the line. The only thing the fish sees is the fly. Depending on the drift the fish either sees the backend of the fly or a side profile, so size

and movement are important. The flies are often tied on a size 8 or larger hook. Constructing the fly from materials, like marabou, bunny strips and soft hackle gives a life like appearance. Before I make my first cast I will pick out possible holding areas in the run or riffle. I then visually create drop zones containing these areas. Each consecutive swing will go a little deeper into the run or riffle until you reach the deeper slower water at the bottom. This allows me to systematically swing the entire area from top to bottom. Because the fly is moving quickly across the zone, the fish will also react quickly. The strikes will usually come fast and hard. Often the strike will come at the end of a drift. Therefore it is also a good idea to allow the fly

to hang for an instant, directly below your casting position, before starting the next cast. You can even give it a few short strips for good measure.

I used the traditional steelhead swing for the rest of the season. As with any technique there were good days and well, lets just say, long days. I will start this spring season the same way, using this very traditional method of fly fishing for steelhead. It is simply part of my evolutionary process as a steelheader. After all, the lure of something different and acquiring of a new level of knowledge, is what steelheading, is all about.

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## Take a Lead(er) from the Professor of Fly Fishing

*by Jim Abbs – courtesy FFF ClubWire*

In 1934 George Harvey taught the first college level fly fishing and fly tying classes in the U.S. (at Penn State). Over the next 38 years he instructed over 35,000 youngsters and adults in fly tying and fly casting. He has fished with and tied flies for both President Eisenhower and President Carter. With these qualifications, he is the unquestionable "Professor of Fly Fishing."

One of Professor Harvey's contributions to fly fishing is a technique for constructing leaders that simply catch more trout. One of the biggest problems with catching trout on dry flies is drag. Trout simply will not strike a fly that is not moving at the same speed as the surface water.

George Harvey recognized that there was a dilemma between having a stiff nylon leader that was easy to cast and a soft leader that would reduce drag. So in response he designed and constructed a leader with 3-4 stiff butt sections and 2-3 soft terminal sections. The stiff butt sections allow you to control the cast, while the soft terminal sections lay down with some "S" curves, allowing the fly to drift freely.

### **Here are two of George Harvey's leader formulae:**

**LEADER FORMULA FOR 9 1/2 foot, 4X:** Three Stiff Butt Sections - 10 inches-.017, 20 inches-.013, 20 inches.011, followed by Three Soft Terminal Sections- 12 inches of .009, 18 inches of .008, and 22-28 inches of .007

**LEADER FORMULA FOR 10 1/2, 5X:** Five Stiff Butt Sections - 10 inches of .017, 20 inches of .015, 20 inches of .013, 20 inches of .011, 12 inches of .009, followed by Three Soft Terminal Sections - 12 inches of .008, 18 inches of .007 and 22-30 inches of .006.

These leader formula have been heralded all over the U.S. and George Harvey writes that "Every fly fisherman I have demonstrated this leader design to has become an instant convert,

If you use this design for your dry fly fishing it will increase your catch by at least fifty percent." What else can we say? George is THE Professor!

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## A Reminder for the Winter Fly Fisher: Fly Fishing in the Cold can be Deadly

*courtesy FFF ClubWire*

Perhaps there is nothing more solitary or special than getting out to fly fish on a winter day, whether it is a Midwestern spring creek, a wild western steelhead river or mid-south tailwater. But there is a danger in this activity that you must think about, even before it happens.

That peril is hypothermia and it is THE NUMBER ONE KILLER OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONALISTS. Basically if your body cools off too much (just 3-4 degrees from the normal 98.6), it will start a sequence of events that can easily be fatal. The fundamental "Catch 22" with hypothermia is as follows. If your core body temperature goes too low, brain function becomes impaired and then as a result you will lose the ability to take proper corrective actions. This is especially serious if you are alone and some distance away from shelter or a source of external heat. For example, if due to hypothermia-related confusion you take the wrong trail, or try to get back by crossing the river at a dangerous spot or simply get more lost, your situation may have a very bad end. Before your next winter outing consider learning about (1) proper actions to avoid hypothermia, (2) the early critical signs and (3) what actions to take immediately when those signs are experienced. Here is a short course on those three topics that may save your life.

Actions to avoid hypothermia: Dress for warmth, dryness and wind protection. Carry windproof and waterproof outerwear protection. Stay dry by putting on raingear before getting wet. Wet clothes

lose 90% of their insulating value and the wind can make the cooling off much worse. Pack energy snacks, with sugar for quick conversion to energy and other nutrients for a longer-lasting effect. Keep active to generate heat. Remember, hypothermia can happen at 30-40 degrees. It does not have to be frigid.

Identify the early signs: As soon as you start to shiver, even in one part of your body, you must recognize such shivering as an early sign of hypothermia. This includes chattering teeth or uncontrollable momentary shivering of one arm or leg. If something is not done at this point, death can result within 90 minutes of that first sign of shivering. Other tell-tale signs include changes in speech, lapses in memory, inability to think clearly, clumsy hands, stumbling, and a feeling of exhaustion.

Immediate steps: Get out of the wind and rain. Get into dry clothes and a warm place (a dry sleeping bag, a car) as soon as possible. Drawing warmth from another person is often helpful. Drink warm (but not hot) fluids. Avoid alcohol. If your hypothermia worsens, you will be unable to help yourself, so try to tell someone about your problem as soon as possible. Perhaps a related consideration is to fish with a partner in the winter. If you are unsuccessful in correcting this problem in the early stages (when you are conscious and able), it simply will be too late.

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## The Mystery of the "X" in Your Tippet

*by Jim Smoragiewicz of the Black Hills Fly Fishers in South Dakota – courtesy FFF ClubWire*

It was a passing thought that I had many times over the years but never took the time to look into it. What does the "X" on packages of tippet and leaders stand for? This was one of the things that I thought every fly fisher but me knew. As I came to discover, however, most other anglers didn't know the answer to this either, and prompted some research on my part.

A little history on some of our first mass produced tippet material. For some time early in the century, leaders were tied out of a silk strand that came from a caterpillar in Spain. The caterpillars were killed and then processed in chemicals to toughen their silk sacks. The silk sacks or

"gut" were then removed from the caterpillar (usually two caterpillars). This packet of silk was then stretched out, usually reaching a length of 12"-15". Lengths of silk longer than this were scarce, and brought a premium price.

The silk strands were uneven in diameter and needed to be uniform in diameter for use in building a leader. The way this evening process was accomplished was by using diamonds to cut away the excess material. The diamond that had a round hole drilled in it and was polished on one side to form a cutting edge on the hole. The silk strand was then soaked in a solution to soften it, and then

drawn through the hole in the diamond with all excess silk being cut away.

This uniform piece of "silk cat gut" (gut from a caterpillar, and not a house cat) was considered to be 1x in size because it had been drawn through a diamond one time or 1x. Next it was drawn through a diamond with a smaller hole to reduce the diameter even further. This piece of silk was now a 2x in diameter, or drawn through diamonds 2 times. This was continued until a 5x tippet size was reached, the smallest most fly fishers felt was usable at the time.

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## How is my graphite rod blank built?

by Jim Abbs – courtesy FFF ClubWire

Are you an expert on graphite fly rods? Most of us have too much experience - we buy enough of them. So, what do mandrels, prepreg, tow, resin, scrim, or snake belly have to do with fly rod construction?

Well, a mandrel is a carefully manufactured steel stick or rod that is shaped to determine the cross-sectional shape or the taper of your rod. Simply put, the mandrel serves as a form or mold for the rod. Most rod manufacturers have many mandrels - some say thousands. To start with, a fabric made of graphite and resin (a prepreg - probably for graphite pre-pregnated with resin) is wrapped around the mandrel, covered with a heat shrink tape and baked in an oven. After baking, the tape and mandrel are removed and you have your basic rod blank. If the blank is not sanded (to make it smooth) it will have the spiral rough finish like some Orvis or Scott rods called "snake belly".

Some fly rods are coated with an epoxy or other plastic covering. The graphite in the pre-preg fabric is dry graphic fibers combed from spools (like yarn) and called "tow." Scrim is a thin layer of fiberglass or graphite fibers that holds the fibers in the prepreg in place - it reinforces the strength of the rod. The ferrule is sometimes part of the wrapping process, or sometimes it is added later.

So how does all of this influence the performance of your fly rod? Well it should be clear that the stiffness of the rod is not only influenced by the stiffness of the graphite but also by the amount of resin. Indeed, two rods with the same IM6 graphite may differ significantly in stiffness. Other factors that influence the action of your rod are the number of wraps of the prepreg, the diameter of the mandrel, and the kind of resin in the pre-preg, in addition to the graphite. Just like there are different kinds of graphite, there also are different kinds of resin, which also vary in their properties. So as you consider purchasing that next fly rod, don't focus only on the stiffness modulus of the graphite, or the kind of graphite... there are many other variables that will influence performance of the rod.



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## Nesting season is under way

News-Messenger reports

OAK HARBOR — Six pairs of bald eagles have already begun incubating eggs in three Ohio counties along Lake Erie indicating that the 2004 nesting season is underway, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

A pair in Sandusky County began sitting on eggs in early February and since then, five other pairs are known to be incubating in Sandusky, Ottawa and Huron counties. Especially significant this year is incubation at a nest on Middle Bass Island.

"This is the first active nest on the Lake Erie islands — with actual egg-laying — since well before Ohio's eagle populations declined during the 1960s and '70s," said Mark Shieldcastle, eagle project leader at ODNR's Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station.

Biologists have identified 94 nest territories in the state, six of which are new this year. Nesting at these sites is expected to begin between now and mid-April.

"This has the potential to be yet another record-setting year," said Steven A. Gray, chief of the ODNR Division of Wildlife. "Ohio is very close to having 100 nests. Reaching that milestone will be a great accomplishment."

Ohio's bald eagle population grew from only four nesting pairs along the southwestern Lake Erie shore 26 years ago, to a record 88 pairs in 34 Ohio counties in 2003. The pairs produced 105 young last year.

ODNR Division of Wildlife staff and a group of trained volunteers monitor existing nests and continue to look for nests that may as yet be undiscovered.

Active nests are located in the following 34 Ohio counties: Ashtabula — 2; Coshocton — 1; Crawford — 1; Defiance — 1; Delaware — 1; Erie — 9; Geauga — 3; Guernsey — 1; Hancock — 1; Hardin — 1; Henry — 1; Holmes — 1; Huron — 1; Knox — 2; Lake — 1; Lorain — 2; Lucas — 5; Mahoning — 2; Marion — 2; Mercer — 1; Morgan — 1; Noble — 1; Ottawa — 14; Portage — 3; Putnam — 1; Ross — 1; Sandusky — 13; Seneca — 4; Summit — 1; Trumbull — 6; Tuscarawas (1); Wayne — 1; Wood — 3 and Wyandot — 5.

Bald eagles range over great distances until mature enough to breed; they usually return to nest within 100 miles of where they were raised. Bald eagles reach breeding maturity at 3 to 4 years of age. They generally keep the same mate, but if one of the pair should die, the other eagle will find another mate. An eagle's life span in the wild is about 15 to 20 years.

Bald eagles build huge nests in the tops of tall trees near water, and often re-use the nest year after year. Nests may reach 10 feet across and weigh as much as 2,000 pounds. Eagles lay two to three

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## Schedule of Upcoming NCFF Events

March 3, 2004	NCFF Fly Tying Marathon Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly 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
April 7, 2004	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker: Dick Walle	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
April 14, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
May 5, 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
May 12, 2004	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM



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

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