



THE TAUT LINE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH COAST FLY FISHERS

May 2002

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Annual Membership Meeting

Pursuant to the By Laws, and as determined by the Board of Directors, the Annual Membership Meeting of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc., will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2002 at:

**Penitentiary Glen Reservation
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road
Kirtland, Ohio**

The business meeting will begin promptly at 8:00 p.m. following the Beginner Fly Tying and Favorite Fly sessions. The annual election of Directors will take place during this meeting, and any member in good standing is eligible for election to the Board.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names for election to the Board:

**Don Van Buren
David Tolhurst
Mike Skoczen**

**George Vosmik
Joseph Valencic
Mike Chmielecki**

**George Shuffert
Leonard Jagoda
April Beates**

Since there is no limit to the number of members that may sit on the Board, all may be elected. Nomination may also be presented from the floor at this time.

Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Pursuant to the By Laws, and as determined by the Board of Directors, the Annual Board of Directors Meeting of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc., will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at:

**Penitentiary Glen Reservation
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road
Kirtland, Ohio**

At this meeting the Board will elect the Officers for the 2002-2003 club year from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee subsequent to the election of Directors on May 1, 2002. Officers will be announced in the June Taut Line and introduced at the picnic.

The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers (NCF) 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, NCF. All inquiries should be addressed to:

**Taut Line Newsletter
P.O. Box 312
Painesville, Ohio 44077**

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCF) 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



What happened to spring? We seem to have gone from winter right into summer with record breaking temperatures in the 80's, which have also raised the temperatures in our area streams and rivers. This can only mean a shorter steelhead season, and an earlier season for the other species, not to mention all that yard work to do and grass to cut. Be sure to take it easy as you get back into strenuous outside activities. You wouldn't want to injure your casting arm.

The May meeting is our Annual Membership Meeting when you elect Directors for the new club year from a slate presented by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee this year was made up of Scott Poffinberg, Andy Setlock, George Vosmic and Frank Frisina, and they appointed George Vosmick as their spokesman. I would like to thank them all for their good work, and especially for adding two new nominees to the slate. I know that they will both bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the Board. If you, or a fellow member in good standing is willing to serve on the Board for the next year, nominations will be taken from the floor (per the By Laws) before the vote is taken. This is YOUR club, and it needs as much member participation as possible if we expect it to prosper and grow.

On May 8, 2002 the Board of Directors will hold their Annual Meeting to elect Officers for the new club year. I would like to thank all of the current Board Members for supporting me during the past year, and for working diligently to serve the club. They have each done an exemplary job, with most of them performing two and sometimes three functions to get the work of the club done. Additional Board members next year will relieve some of this workload from them.

We are pleased to have Jack Gartside as our guest speaker this month. Jack is a sought-after speaker who has gotten rave reviews from the countless personal appearances he has made, and is noted as an international fly tier as well as outstanding angler. His presentation is sure to be a big hit.

Let me remind you that since we pay a fee for Jack Gartside's appearance, there will be a \$10 fee for all non-members for this presentation. As always, the fee can be applied towards membership in NCFE within the next month.

Joe Valencic has worked very hard at coordinating the stream cleanups for the Chagrin and Grand Rivers in concert with Grand River Tackle and Chagrin River Salmon Association. Grand River Tackle, one of our faithful advertising sponsors, is also co-sponsoring these events, and will be supplying all the trash bags. If you saw the pictures in the April Taut Line, you know that there was a tremendous amount of trash removed from the banks of the Chagrin last year, and they are anticipating removing as much trash this year. Please sign up to participate in one or both of these events. Signup will be at the May meeting or by logging on to our website at www.ncff.net. There are also signup sheets at Grand River Tackle in Fairport Harbor and Gander Mountain in Mentor. Let's do our part to restore the beauty to the waters we fish.

Don Van Buren

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 1, 2001
 Penitentiary Glen Reservation
 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road
 Kirtland, Ohio

Beginner Fly Tying with Bill Swanson
 starts at 6:30.

May's Favorite Fly will be tied by
 Dave Tolhurst

The James Woods Bucktail (page 8)

This Month's Guest Speaker is: Jack Gartside

Jack Gartside had his first flytying lesson in 1956 from Ted Williams, the great Boston Red Sox outfielder, and has been tying and fishing ever since-- in both fresh water and salt-- accumulating an extraordinary range of fishing experience both in this country and throughout the world.

He was one of the first fly tyers profiled in Sports Illustrated (Oct. 12, 1982). Since that time, he has been profiled in Fly Rod & Reel, Fly Fisherman Magazine, Fly Fishing in Salt Waters, VillmarksLiv

(Norwegian), La Peche en Mer (French), Tight Loop (Japanese), as well as in many other magazines and newspapers both in the US and abroad. He has appeared as well on the cover of Fly Fishing in Salt Waters (the famous photo of Jack and his inflatable giraffe) and also Tight Loop (a Japanese Fly Fishing Magazine, December, 1998). Jack has also written articles for all of the above magazines as well as for many others.

Jack has for the past twenty-five years conducted many fly tying seminars and fly fishing programs throughout this country and abroad, including England, France, Norway, New Zealand, and Japan. He is the author of Striper Flies, the first book ever written dealing specifically with this subject. One of his more recent books, Striper Strategies, has been described by one reviewer (Steve Raymond) as: "...one of the most remarkable striper-fishing manuals to see the light of day," and by another (Tom Meade): "Blessed with bright writing, keen observations, and the most concise advice a striper hunter can find." Other books to Jack's credit are: Fly Patterns for the Adventurous Tyer, Vol I and II; Flies for the 21st Century; and the Soft Hackle Streamer.

His two latest books, Scratching the Surface-- dealing with surface and (slightly) subsurface flies and flyfishing in both fresh and salt water--and The Flyfisherman's Guide to Boston Harbor--have been exceptionally well-received by reviewers and readers alike. "Wow," says On the Water Magazine, about the Guide to Boston Harbor, "easily the best guidebook to be found anywhere."



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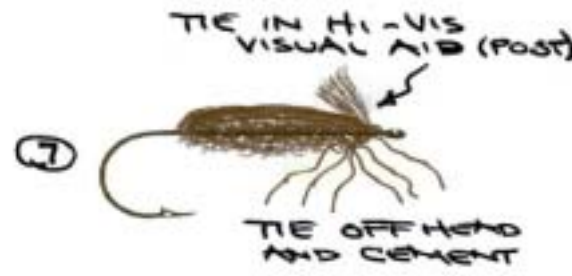
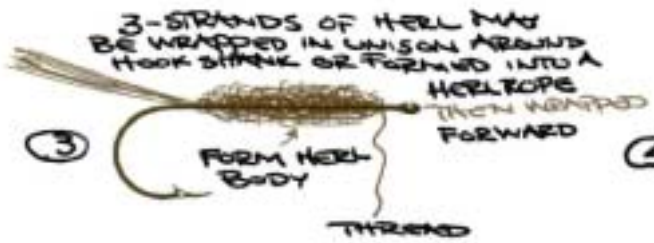
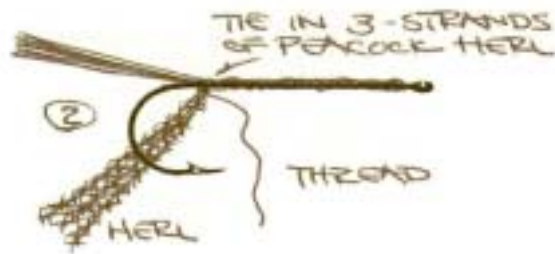
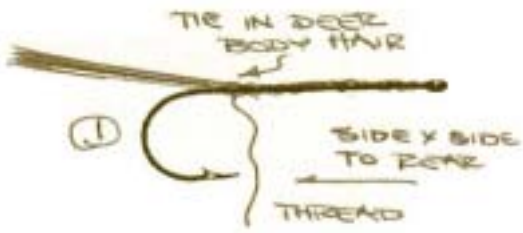
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Continued on Page 5

NCF Favorite Fly
"Hi Vis Beetle"
Tied By Les Ober

<i>Hook</i>	<i>Tiemco 5210 or 100 Size 14</i>	<i>Thread</i>	<i>Black 8/0</i>
<i>Body</i>	<i>Three Strands Peacock Herl</i>	<i>Shellback</i>	<i>Deer Body Hair</i>
<i>Legs</i>	<i>Several Strands of the Deer Body Hair left untrimmed and positioned</i>		
<i>Visual Aid</i>	<i>Fluorescent White Hi-Vis post</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Finish Dry Fly Style</i>



Jack Gartside (continued from page 3)

Jack is also the author of two tying pamphlets, recently published (1999): *Secret Flies* and *More Secret Flies*, two instructional pamphlets featuring recent designs utilizing unique tying methods and unusual tying material (GSS--or Gartside's Secret Stuff).

Fly Tying Info:

Jack has been tying flies for over forty years and is considered by many to be among the most talented and innovative and prolifically inventive tyers of the modern era, for both fresh and salt water. Perhaps his best known original patterns are: the Sparrow, the Soft Hackle Streamer, the Gartside Pheasant Hopper, and the Gartside Gurgler, among many others. His unusual designs have been featured in Eric Leiser's *Book of Fly Patterns*, Judith Dunham's *The Art of the Trout Fly*, Lefty Kreh's *Salt Water Fly Patterns*, Dick Stewart's *Salt Water Flies*, Dick Brown's *Fly Fishing for Bonefish*, and has contributed as well to many other books and magazines.

What some of the Experts Say about Jack:

Kenney Abrames: "A rare Angler of substance."

Gary Borger: "One of only a few who have ventured outside the ordinary."

Eric Leiser: "Exceptionally gifted."

Gary LaFontaine: "Few can match him for creativity in pattern innovation."

Dick Talleur: "As creative an angler as he is a tyer, with a great instinct for coming up with things that work when nothing else seems to."

Lefty Kreh: "His paint don't dry."

Some recent comments from club program chairmen:

"His slide presentations are unique in their insights and humor, his fly tying seminars among the best available,"
Greater Boston Trout Unlimited.

And to quote three recent dinner program chairmen:

"Your dinner program was absolutely the best ever." *Connecticut Fly Fishing Association*

"By far the most entertaining dinner program we've ever had, bar none." *Albany (NY) Chapter, Trout Unlimited.*

"Nothing but raves for your recent program." *Karl Glander, Indianapolis FlyCasters*

Jack also has an informative and fun flyfishing website: www.jackgartside.com

Jack Gartside & Gerald Fly Fishing



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE RIVERS EDGE

The first time that I laid eyes on the Little Juniata River in Central Pennsylvania the afternoon temperature was a balmy 85 degrees. It was mid august and the dog days of summer were in full swing. My initial reaction was that the time I had chosen for my first visit was better suited for smallmouth fishing than for trout. This observation was further reinforced when I looked at the water. It was so clear that you could count every pebble on the bottom. However, my next observation gave me hope. In the deep pool that lies next to the Rivers Edge Bed and Breakfast were trout. Not trout hunkered to the bottom suffering from heat exhaustion and oxygen deprivation, as you would expect at this time of the year. These were active trout that occasionally made a lazy trip to the surface to intercept a passing morsel of food. After all the Little J is no ordinary trout stream it is one of the many limestone streams that abound in central and southeastern PA.

The limestone stream is a miracle of nature. Their points of origin are giant springs that form aquifers that rise to the surface forming creeks and rivers often referred too as spring creeks. The Little J is unique in that it resembles a freestone stream yet is spring fed. It is fed from internal springs and from Spruce Creek a true limestone spring creek. The stretch of the Little J that I had chosen to fish has no less than 9 springs feeding it. It is considered by many to be one of the finest trout streams in the Eastern United States. Much of the river falls under the special regulation of Trophy Trout Water. Forty percent of the trout population is wild. The rest of the trout are stocked annually as fingerlings.

The trout live in an environment where the water temperature varies from 50 to 65 degrees F year round. Even during the winter when most freestone streams are frozen the limestone streams remain open and fishable. During the summer the water temperature can rise into the sixties during the day but will drop into the mid fifties at night. This explains the level of activity of those trout on that August afternoon. The trout will hide from the light and the rising water temperature during the day. Some will move under the banks or into deep cuts but most will move up into the deeper riffle water. This cascading water not only provides cover from above but increased oxygen levels. As late afternoon turns into evening the trout return to their traditional feeding lanes. Often using the shadows of late day to disguise their presence. When they move into feeding position it is business as usual. They are looking for a meal. At this time of year the menu has changed. Gone are the prolific mayfly hatches of spring. Only the Trico and a few BWOs remain. These occur mostly in the morning hours and then only briefly. So what's a hungry trout going to do when he wants a late afternoon snack? There are of course minnows, but one of their mainstays is the terrestrial. These are land- based insects. They are the bugs of insect world consisting beetles, ants, hoppers, crickets and other assorted bugs.

Continued on Page 7



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Reflections... (cont.)

This is not your dainty mayfly rising gracefully from the waters film. They enter the stream unceremoniously from the trees above, falling victim to their own clumsy nature. Out of the trees they come, dislodged by wind. Entering the water with a splat not unlike a diver doing a belly slam off a high board. Triggering an instant response from the trout swimming below. After all this is a macho trout's meal. This is meat and potatoes for a hungry trout. This offering looks super sized compared to those size 22 Tricos that they dined on earlier in the day. After watching this activity it became clear to me that this would be the proper approach to take if I was going to fool these weary trout.

I had tied up some Steeves Fireflies and some ants and had bought the pattern D-Jour from Allen down at Spring Creek Outfitters. As it turned out that pattern would become my go to bug for years to come. All it is a Crowe bug with a Hi-Vis post. Simple but deadly. It is generic in style because there are well over 200 beetle and bugs and it would be impossible to match them all. The best thing about the pattern is that you can see it. This is important if your half bind like yours truly. The most important thing about fishing bugs and beetles is presentation. Make you cast near or under the brush and drop the fly onto the water with authority. In other words put it down with a splat. With this dry fly you want to see a circular wake moving away from the fly when it lands. The trout's response is often instantaneous and violent. If not, allow it drift near the bank with an occasional twitch. The best time to fish is in late afternoon after a windy day. This puts a good number of unfortunate bugs in the water. The trout will respond as if there were a mayfly hatch coming off. The Hi-Vis beetle has worked well for me but so have ants, hoppers and yellow jacket imitations.

The best part of terrestrial fishing during the dog days of summer is the solitude. You will see very few anglers on the river at this time of year. No one believes that you can catch a dozen trout in a day in the middle of August, but you can on this Central Pa stream. All you have to do is fish the hatch from above.

Les Ober

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Fly Special Program

By Andy Setlock

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

George Vosmik—Steelhead & Trout (2) boxes
Mark Mumau—Trout
John Byrne—Steelhead
Tom Conklin—Steelhead
Mark Shreck—Trout

There's still time to get flies in for the May and June meetings. See me at the meetings for details.

Andy

Welcome New Members!!

The following new members have recently joined NCFE.

Susan Hibbard
Walter (Walt) Schaffer
Ralph Sibert
Jerry Alden
April & Howard Beates

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

Mike

Members On Stream



Mike Skoczen with a nice Steelhead caught on the Chagrin River in early April.

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.

The James Woods Bucktail By: Dave Tolhurst

May's Favorite Fly is the simplest of all flies to tie. Over ten years ago, I selected this fly as the very first fly when teaching the NCFE Beginning Fly Tying classes. The pattern comes from Harry Murray's classic book, Fly Fishing for Small Mouth Bass. Murray states in his book, "It is so simple in appearance that it impresses no one. However, once they try it, it impresses everyone."

The fly sat in my fly box unused for over ten years. It just doesn't look like it would attract a smallmouth in comparison to all the nymphs and streamers that crowd my fly boxes. Then one day last summer, out of sheer frustration of not catching a single Rocky River smallmouth, I tied one on and cast it into a riffle just below the Madison Pool. I had a fish hit on the first drift and continued to catch fish for the rest of the day up and down the river. It is now my first choice for smallmouth bass and it seldom lets me

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

BOOK REVIEW

Tying Flies the Paraloop Way

by Ian Moutter

The Countryman Press

Woodstock, VT 2001

191 pages, hardbound

illustrated, color and B&W

suggested price, \$35.00

This is a very interesting book on a single fly tying technique. The paraloop or hackle stacker method of tying hackle onto a fly is the sole topic of this well done volume. The author has taken great pains to clearly discuss and illustrate the various ways this method of wrapping hackle can be accomplished for dry fly patterns, emerging fly patterns, midge patterns, spinner patterns, and even wet fly patterns. Overall, the text succeeds in providing the fly tyer at every level with clear, easy to follow instructions. The beginner as well as the advanced fly tyer will find this book to be of value.

The Scottish author's style is a bit more pedantic than most Americans are used too, but he has successfully tempered this with insight and well thought out reasoning. In addition, the editing and layout of the book are superb. The photographs and illustrations of the tying steps are extremely well done, very clear, and illustrate the well written text beautifully. There is also a hidden jewel in this nicely published volume, the wonderful line drawings. These drawings are so well done that they may be considered by many readers to bring more than enough value to owning the book. The only improvement would be to label each page with chapter and section number so that the references by the author to them could be followed without having to flip through numerous pages each time.

If you are an inquisitive, thoughtful fly tyer this book will be a joy and an inspiration for further experimentation and thought concerning fly design. It is clearly one of the best planned, written, and produced fly tying books of the last several years.

(© 2001 Bruce E. Harang of the Smoky Mountain Fly Fishers of North Carolina for the ClubWire Email NewsWire)

QUIZ

Is there a drought this year in your area? The average person uses about 100 gallons of water every day in and around the house. What uses the most water inside the average house?

- a. toilet
- b. laundry
- c. kitchen
- d. shower/bath

Quiz answer: a. (source U.S. EPA)

CHICKABOU SOFT HACKLE

Several months ago the Oregon Council, Federation of Fly Fishers received a generous contribution of Hoffman Chickabou patches from a party on the East coast. They in turn sent boxes of patches to every council in the United States. There were no restrictions on how the patches were to be used. The Washington State Council, FFF gave four patches to each FFF fly club in the state. They can be used for fund raising, fly tying classes, etc. Since some people haven't watched Henry Hoffman tie flies at the annual shows, I decided to dig two of his flies out of storage and write about them.

These flies were tied by Henry Hoffman at the 31st FFF Conclave and Show (1996). The one tied with all fluffy Chickabou is best for lake use. The other one tied with some fluffy Chickabou and the less fluffy fibers near the feather's tip works best in gentle streams. Henry tied the fluffy one, saved the feather tip and used it for the second fly.

Henry had a fish tank to let people see how Chickabou moves in water. "Rods" (wooden dowels) with monofilament and flies attach let us move the flies through the water in various ways. When a Chickabou Soft Hackle was pulled straight through the water there was a little fluttering movement of the fibers. However, when a strip/pause retrieve was simulated there was a tremendous movement of the barbs and barbules. On the "strip" barbs would lay close to the body with a little fluttering and on the "pause" the fly would sink and the fibers would stand out from the body. Action like this attracts any curious fish.

Depending on the situation (and your inclinations) Chickabou Soft Hackles can be fished in lakes or streams with floating, sink-tip or full sinking lines. As always try different retrieves until you find what fish like.

A description of how to tie the Chickabou Soft Hackles can be found on the FFF website at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>.

(by Bob Bates of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Spokane WA for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)



QUOTE:

"Fly fishing is solitary, contemplative, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, poetic in others, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It is not even clear if catching fish is actually the point."

- John Gierach, Dances with Trout, 1994; quoted in The Quotable Fisherman, Nick Lyons, ed.

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Schedule Of Upcoming NCFF Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PLACE/TIME</u>
May 1, 2002	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying Favorite Fly—Dave Tolhurst Guest Speaker—Jack Gartside	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:00 PM
May 8, 2002	Board Meeting Election Of Officers	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 PM
June 5, 2002	Annual Picnic New Officer Introductions	Helen Hazen Park 5:30—Dark
June 12, 2002	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 PM

2001-2002 NCFF Board of Directors

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VICE PRES:	George Vosmik	(440) 333-6133	RAFFLES:	Lenny Jagoda	(440) 259-5382
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SECRETARY:	Dave Tolhurst	(216) 529-1405			

**North Coast Fly Fishers
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