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Ohio Council Initiative Update

by: Don Van Buren, Chairman OCI

On Sunday, September 7, 2003 the second meeting of the Ohio Council Initiative (OCI) was held in Central Ohio with officers of five of the Ohio clubs in attendance. The energy level of the July meeting carried into this one, and more clubs were represented at this meeting.

For the first time that anyone could remember, the Ohio FFF clubs were united in a common cause: to create a Sub-Council of the GLC that would unite Ohio's FFF clubs and be voice for FFF and all fly fishers in Ohio and adjacent states. A bond has been developing between the officers of these clubs since their first meeting, and everyone was prepared for a "make it" or "break it" session of hard work and decision making. The agenda was comprehensive and aggressive.

The first order of business was to vote on petitioning the GLC to create the Ohio Sub Council. The motion passed unanimously. We had developed a Mission Statement and a preliminary budget that also passed. We accepted the Bylaws that had been reviewed for six weeks, and then developed the slate of leaders to represent the Sub Council for its first year of operation. The new leaders will come from Northern, Central and Southern Ohio to insure our goals

are well represented. An Internet domain has been acquired and following GLC approval a website will go online. In a nutshell, the infrastructure, business plan and leadership of the new organization were unanimously put in place, and talks began as to how we would market the Ohio Sub Council to fly fishing enthusiasts a cross the state.

By the time you read this update, the petition will be in the hands of GLC with its supporting documentation. We have requested that GLC act on this petition at their October meeting so the Ohio Sub Council could be in place before January 1, 2004.

The future looks bright as this organization has the potential to serve the fly fishing community by offering opportunities to learn, practice, promote and preserve the heritage of fly fishing in Ohio. Emphasis has been placed on supporting "All Fish, All Waters" as promoted by FFF, and special focus will be placed on promoting warm water fly fishing that dominates Ohio's fishery. Along the way this organization will be a major contributor to supporting the goals and objectives of the FFF. All this and Ohio based too!

October Speaker: Brian Flechsig, Mad River Outfitters

Brian Flechsig tied his first fly and caught his first fish when he was seven years old. Today, from his fly shop in Columbus, Ohio, Brian outfits sportsmen, teaches classes and guides groups on fishing trips to some of the world's best places to fish. He has been in the fly fishing business for most of his adult life. Brian is one of America's new generation of fly fishing personalities and has been featured in a series of fly fishing instructional videos from Mad River Media, including the new title, *Carpin' with good friend Dave Whitlock*. He is the author of "The Fly Fisher's Guide to the Mad River", Ohio's premier trout stream and is active in many conservation activities and efforts to bring the sport of fly fishing to everyone. He has also just recently released an acoustic music CD entitled "River Songs", and actively plays music when he can.



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Attn: Dir. Of Communications

The North Coast Fly Fishers (NCF) 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,
www.davewhitlock.com.

September Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 1st 2003
Penitentiary Glen Nature Center
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio


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

Guest Speaker
Brian Flechsig - Carp on the Fly
8:00 - 10:00 PM

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*"There is no cure
for birth and death
save to enjoy the
interval."*

— George Santayana

From the President's Quill

A Look At NCFE Volunteers

I have said many times that the strength of NCFE is in its members, and volunteerism continues to grow as our club grows. Here's a peak at what's coming.

Mark Muamu will lead us in the Favorite Fly segment of October's meeting. Mark enjoys tying and has helped at various programs including tying at Gander Mountain Mentor earlier this year. Mark's strength is in the use of creative materials, including hair from a Pug dog. Don't laugh because the fly catches fish!

April Beates, Les Ober and Roger Grant are all organizing Club Outings in the coming months. Roger's outing is already on the website with its details, and Les will have his organized very soon. April is working on a ladies outing with the date and time yet to be determined. The "NCFE Outings Guideline" is available from any Board member to help you plan an outing.

Howard Beates has volunteered to lead our ever-popular NCFE Basic Fly Tying course along with Jim Gavacs and Eric Nakanishi assisting him. Even though Howard had to work during the September meeting, Jim & Eric showed up to work diligently and patiently with the beginning fly tiers.

These are just a few examples of our member volunteers and what they are committed to or are planning to contribute as individuals. Many members never hesitate in helping with setting up tables and chairs for our monthly meetings and then returning them to storage. Their contribution of time and effort is a very important commodity to the club. All of these individual efforts and many more that I have neither the time nor space to mention are sincerely appreciated by your leadership.

I would be negligent if I did not mention your Board of Directors. They have been tireless with their efforts to making NCFE recognized by other clubs as extremely successful and fun to belong to. While the club was on vacation during July and August, the Board never stopped in its commitment to planning for future events. Speakers were contacted for our meetings, raffle tickets were designed and printed for the Mega Raffle in December and Expo 2004 in January. Schedules and menus for the Holi-

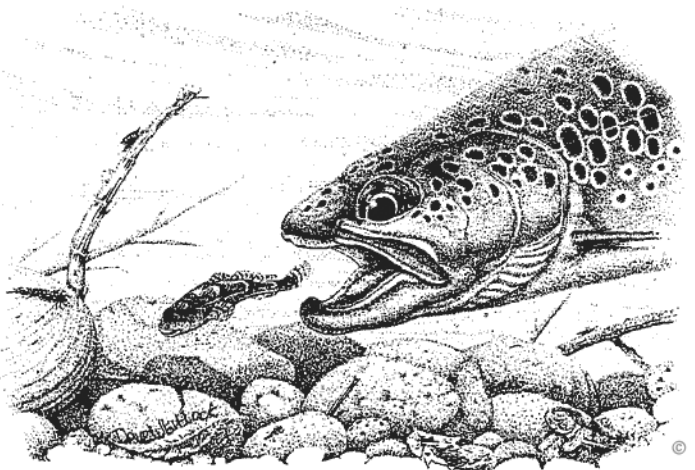
day Dinner were planned along with raffle prizes being selected and purchased. Vendors and guest tiers were contacted for Expo as well as new educational programs planned and speakers scheduled to perform the programs. All this while we were on "vacation". Thank you and kudos to a very active and talented Board.

The Board has an ambitious schedule of events planned and much volunteerism will be needed to maintain the high quality of these activities. We encourage and need new and different ideas for future events of every sort. To those of you who have contributed their time and effort toward improving our club and maintaining its' high level of attractiveness we applaud you. To those who have not yet given volunteerism a try we encourage you to do so, especially the new members.

Speaking of new members, we can be proud as a club that we have the traits that many people are looking for in deciding to join a Fly Fishing club. One of these traits is our friendliness, so introduce yourself to our new members and make them feel welcome.

Yes the strength of our club is our members, and everyone appreciates all that our volunteers do to make this a vibrant and noticeable club.

Donald R. Van Buren



Casting Further

by Paul Arden

There are several ways you can make a more powerful roll cast, you can start with more line in the D-loop, you can start with less line on the water, you can force a more powerful stop and you can add a haul:

More line in D-loop:- the most straight forward way of achieving this is to reach out behind you with a straight arm to set the D (but remember to bring your hand back to your ear before executing the forward stroke).

Alternatively as an exercise in lateral thinking you can get more line into the D-loop by first forming your D then taking a step forwards - not to be recommended in a boat.

Another method is what is commonly called the jump-roll: here we stop the backcast with a little upwards flick in order to send some more line backwards. This technique is really effective because it allows us to keep more line in the air, anchoring only the last couple of feet of flyline on the water. Make sure that the fly is still in front of you at all times (otherwise its not a roll cast any more). If we make this little upwards flick more positive (harder stop) we can force a pointed D-loop (where then point runs down the D-loop), which has the benefits of being both dynamic and sexy!

With this last technique we have started to create a really effective cast. One clear advantage that the jump-roll has is in its ability to keep large amounts of line in the air, clear of the water, where it gets stuck. (Another advantage is that

because we use a positive back stroke this cast helps to lift leaded flies to the surface - although if you are a Kiwi you may have to roll cast several times to get your nymphs up...).

Ideally we want about 2 feet of flyline tip on the water, as our anchor. An effective way of placing this line on the water is to dip the tip of the rod as make the back-cast (in other words, an S-shape stroke - but mirror flip the S and then rotate it 90 degrees...) - remember that the line goes where the tip of the rod goes.

If we make the tip-dip too soon we get too much line on the water, too late and the tip misses the water and travels behind us.

If we dip too forcefully the end of the flyline lands in the right place but folds back on itself, sometimes tangling the leader, and always reducing the forward cast's efficiency.

The theory behind stopping harder on the forward cast, is that we can get that tip-snap we needed so much in our overhead cast. For me pulling back on the tip of the rod as I stop the rod can work really well (It's almost like the flickcast in reverse - a later technique).

Hauling is effective in the roll cast and most competent flyfishers do it naturally (once they have learned the double haul), however it should be remembered that the most effective time to start the haul for those tight fast loops, is at the beginning of the power-snap. If you are having to roll cast into the wind the forward haul

can give you that extra bit of tip speed that you need.

You can also put a short haul into the backcast where it helps to form that sexy pointed jump-roll D-shape

You can also haul just as the flyline is straightening out on the forward cast to help straighten the leader into the wind. So I guess in theory you could end up with the triple-haul jump-roll cast. Which is quite a mouthful.

Shooting line is quite possible with the roll cast:- just remember to cast above the water on the forward cast and not onto the water.

A useful 'trick' is to shoot some line into the backcast:- either to get a larger D-loop or because you retrieved too much. Also along the same track; when only a small amount of line is outside the tip you can get more there by drawing a large circle directly in front of you with the rod tip, releasing some line into the circle - this only works if you initially keep the tip of the line stuck on the water: so start the circle slowly building up speed as you go. If you are casting off the right shoulder draw the circle clockwise and then you can go straight into the roll cast. For the left shoulder we go anti-clockwise, obviously. This cast can also be used as a single spey variation.

Paul Arden 1999-2003 FFF Certified Master Casting Instructor in the UK. His website www.sexyloops.com is a fly fishing gold mine.

Raffles Galore!

As you noticed, this issue of the Taut Line has a book of Mega Raffle tickets and Expo 2004 Raffle Tickets. We are encouraging every member to sell or purchase at least one book of tickets for each event to guarantee the success of the event, and more if you are able to.

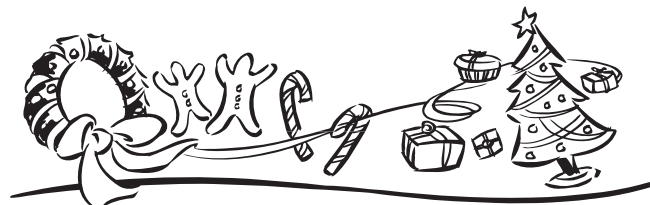
As mentioned last month, by selling the tickets you are eligible to win the seller's prizes if you sold one, or all, of the top three winning tickets for each event. If you sell the tickets to yourself and you are one of the top three prizewinners, you collect the seller's prize as well. Remember to put your name on all of the tickets you sell.

Additional tickets will be available at the monthly meetings and on the day of the events as well. Please return the sold ticket stubs and money at the monthly meetings, and be sure to **LEAVE THE TICKETS STAPLED TOGETHER!** This will help us in accounting for all the tickets and storing them until the event.

We have purchase two new raffle ticket drums. The small one will be used at our monthly meetings and the large one for major events like Expo.

If you need additional tickets between meetings, please contact Joe Valencic at (440) 255-8216. After the October members meeting all Board members will have a supply of tickets so you won't have far to travel to get them if you need extras.

Good Luck to all the buyers and sellers.



NCCFF Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 3rd 2003

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Doors open at 5:00 PM • Dinner served at 6:30 PM

Pine Ridge Country Club

Ball Room

30605 Ridge Road

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

Cost

\$20 for Adults

\$10 children 4-12

Free for children under 4

Buffet Style Dinner

Chicken Marsala

Roast Eye of Round Beef

Roasted Potatoes

Rigatoni

Mixed Vegetables

Salad, Rolls, Butter

Beverages, Coffee

Desert

(cash bar downstairs)

3 Favorite Fly Tiers & Socializing with Fellow Members.

Mega Raffle ticket sales and winning ticket drawing

Sign up starting at the October Members Meeting

No Beginning Fly Tying - This will Return at the January Meeting

Make checks payable to: North Coast Fly Fishers.

There will be no refunds for any reason due to circumstances beyond our control.

Why Would Anyone Want to Build Their Own Fly Rod?

by Barry Whitehouse of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

Late last fall, at a CFFA meeting, sign-up for the yearly rod building class was announced. I thought, "Why would I want to build my own fly rod?" I already own a couple of fly rods, and can't really justify another rod. OK, I own about ten bass fishing rods, but I never spent more than \$40 for any of them. Fly rods are so expensive, why risk all that money making a rod that might not turn out to be very good? For 30-40% more, I could buy a professionally made fly rod. Well, I had taken CFFA's fly tying course two winters before, and I attended their salt water fly tying class one year ago. I had a lot of fun at both. So what would I do this winter? Gotta think of a reason to take the class... I know! I could build a fly rod for my son Neil, an accomplished fisherman, who had never fly fished before. However, I wasn't sure that he'd be interested in fly fishing. So I told him I was thinking of taking the class, and building a fly rod for him. He said, "that would be really special". So I had my motivation!

CFFA's Rod Building Class

I took the class. Jack Smola taught it, with Ed Rowan filling in when Jack couldn't be there. The students told them what kind of

fly rod each wanted to build, and Jack and Ed ordered all the parts needed, at about half the price of a factory built rod. They taught us all the steps – finding the spine (natural bend) in the rod, measuring for placement of the line guides, reaming out the cork handle and wooden reel seat insert, gluing the handle together, winding thread to mount the guides and protect the ferrules, and applying rod finish epoxy to seal the threads. I even learned how to do a fancy trim thread wrap in different colors. They explained or demonstrated the steps, and gave lots of helpful hints. We all worked at our own pace, each at a different stage in his own fly rod building project. While some students worked on their rods at the class, I used class time to learn all about the steps, and then worked on my fly rod at home.

Patience and Perseverance

You don't have to be a perfectionist to build a decent quality fly rod that you'll enjoy. But I'm pretty detail oriented (that's "anal retentive" to those of you who are not detail oriented). I drove Jack nuts with all my questions and concerns. I wanted the fly rod to turn out as perfect as possible. So when a step didn't turn out as well as I

liked, I took it apart and redid it. Sometimes the rework involved cutting and rewinding thread, but other times I had to heat the cured epoxy, and cut off the epoxy and hardened threads, then scrape off the remnants of the glue. (This happened many times, but I kept plugging away, and eventually, the rod came out really nice.) A special "Thank you" also to Lou Fabrizio, CFFA's webmaster and a co-worker of mine, for lots of good advice on rod building. I had the nickel silver butt cap engraved with my son's initials, and the aluminum rod tube cap engraved with my son's name and the information about the fly rod. (I ordered the engraving from REC rod components, where Ed works, and Ed did the engraving.)

The Real Satisfaction

I gave the 9 foot, 6 weight rod to my son on his 21st birthday, along with an Orvis reel, weight forward line, and a box of flies that I tied myself (thanks to CFFA's fly tying classes!). He really loves the fly rod. The first time I took him fly fishing, he caught at least half a dozen crappie, and I caught a few myself. Some of the highlights of the day were my dropping my cell phone overboard (goodbye!), and



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explaining the importance of wearing eye protection, only to hit him in the head with a fly just seconds later. (Barbless hook, and it didn't stick, thank goodness).

The Obsession Continues

After building my first rod, I was hooked... I mean obsessed, with rod building. So then I built my own fly rod – a St. Croix SCV (Legend Elite). I did some fancy gold trim threadwork on mine, too. I've been using it for a couple of months now. The rod is a pleasure to cast! Well, I couldn't stop, so I decided to build a fishing rod for another veteran angler in the family - my 19 year old daughter. I built her a 6 foot 6 inch St.Croix SCII fast action, light power spinning rod. The rod is matte black, the guides have deep blue ceramic rings, and the threads are a beau-

tiful dark blue, metallic blue, and silver. I even learned how to create a diamond pattern thread wrap above the handle, and I'm sure she's going to love it. My nickname for her is "Sunshine", so I painted a small silver sunshine on the rod, as well as on the rod case, to personalize them for her. I just put the finishing touches on this rod, so by the time you read this, she will have taken it fishing!

Rod Building Help on the Web

I have discovered several web sites that feature rod building. (Just do a search on "rod building".) Two of my favorites are: www.mudhole.com (they have Rodbuilding 101 lessons on their web site) www.rodbuilding.org (rod building tips for new and experienced rod builders)

So Why Build a Fly Rod?

So why would anyone want to build their own fly rod? Here are just a few reasons I discovered:

- 1) To attend one of CFFA's great classes,
- 2) To spend the winter hours on a satisfying, fishing-related hobby,
- 3) To build a great rod for the price of an average factory-built rod,
- 4) To make a custom fly rod that you couldn't buy in any store,
- 5) To make a very personalized gift for a special person,
- 6) To catch a fish (or watch that special someone catch a fish) on a rod you built yourself.

So this fall, when a club announces sign-up for its rod building class, you just might want to give it a try...and start your new obsession

Fly-Fishing the Elderhostel Way

by Charleen Drotning - NCFE

Elderhostel provides an efficient and economical way to enjoy an activity – in my case, fly-fishing. Imagine fishing trips to the Catskills' Willowemoc, Delaware, Neversink, Esopus in New York, the Lake Fork of the Gunnison in Colorado, the North Branch of the Potomac and other rivers in West Virginia, the Missouri River in Montana, and the shore of the Chesapeake and various lakes and ponds in Maryland. I've fished all those rivers and places over the past few years by signing up for Elderhostel programs.

All levels of fly-fishing abilities were represented; novices and avid fishers. At a recent Elderhostel, there were two father and son combos enjoying fishing together. There were couples where one had never fished and the other had fished quite a lot. The leaders and instructors were very flex-

ible in working with all levels of fishing. All programs included some casting instruction or review, entomology, reading the water, and fly-tying. Usually, groups would go off to fish with guides. But if some just wanted to go off to fish, the leaders suggested various places to try.

The accommodations were sometimes campy as in YMCA, but one was a Western resort lodge, another a motel like unit, and one a state park resort-like facility. The food was acceptable– some more creative than others. The cost ranged around \$450- \$600, which includes the food, lodging, instruction and guiding.

I could go on with the particulars about each of the places, but get an Elderhostel catalogue (libraries have them) or better yet, spend some time at www.Elderhostel.org and search for "fly-fishing" or

"fishing" and see what programs come up. Study the active outdoor section. Many programs repeat every year so look up programs for past years to see what may be available in the spring and summer. Sign up early as a waiting list usually develops fast for some programs.

Of course, the best thing about Elderhostels in general and these fishing trips in particular are the people you meet. As you know, there are some very comical fishing people. The day is usually full of laughs and then along with evening fly-tying sessions – with that box wine – one realizes that fishing is more than catching fish. Some people I met at my very first one, I would meet again on later trips. To me, it's an easy way to fish – no details to think about. Just show up and have an adventure.

To Catch and Release or Release in the Grease ... Is that really a question?

by Brian Camp Past President of the FFF Southern Council

Unless you've been living in a cave somewhere deep in Duane Hada's revered Ozarks then you must surely be aware that the Federation's motto is, "A good game fish is too valuable to be caught just once." The late, great Lee Wulff is the originator of the phrase and I consider this the most important thing that ever came out of our organization. If nothing else, this is certainly the most influential thing the Federation has done because Lee's words of wisdom have been embraced by millions of anglers over the last 30 years. Believe it or not, Mr. Ray Scott, founder of the Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society, heard Lee speak at a Conclave once and this was the inspiration that caused him to institute catch-and-release at all B.A.S.S. tournaments. Mr. Scott's unprecedented actions then went on to influence fishing tournaments, both in freshwater and in saltwater, worldwide and a strong catch-and-release ethic has now been ingrained into untold numbers of fisherman, whether they fish tournaments or not. And to think that a humble, gentle guy like Lee Wulff could make this sort of incredible, far reaching impact upon a fishing mentality that rarely released a fish of any size or species unless it was into the sizzling hot grease of an iron skillet. Personally, I find this whole chain of events truly amazing.

What concerns me now is there seems to be a rapidly growing number of fly fishers that measure their success on a stream, lake, bay or whatever by how many pounds of fish they bring home. I've run across a few of these folks and when asked why do they do the, the pat answer always seems to be that these are just "bream", white bass or some other "non" game fish. In the case of our Southern trout, I'm really getting tired of the excuse, "They're stocked by the millions and someone fishing corn will just take them home if I don't." Wrong.

Just because we fish in warm water or in stocked trout streams that weren't originally trout streams doesn't give us

an excuse to do whatever we please. As Federators, we are supposed to be stewards of all aquatic resources. And our mission is not to just protect them, but to enhance and improve them as well. Killing fish does nothing to enhance a fishery though admittedly in a few extremely rare cases, removing some fish may be a viable method to improve or enhance the ecosystem. Overpopulated brook trout fisheries and farm ponds full of stunted bass as two classic examples. But you can easily go too far in these situations and it takes careful monitoring of the catch rate and the population density in the fishery to make harvest a viable fisheries improvement tool.

I'm not a judge or a one-man jury and I'm certainly not the type to force-feed my own values down your throat, though you may run into a Federator somewhere that will. There is certainly no shortage of people willing to lend an opinion in this organization! But ultimately, the choice to kill a fish or release it is yours and yours alone. All I ask is that your decision to release or kill is an intelligent choice based on sound science. I've actually seen some fabulous sunfish lakes totally ruined by fly fishers (yep, that's right, fly fishers!) In fact, I know of one incredible, yet very small, pond that was ruined by the selfish actions of one fly fisher over the course of only one season. These folks innocently thought they could not hurt the fishery because sunfish are so prolific. Wrong again. Sunfish may be prolific but when a dedicated group of very good anglers repeatedly hit a small lake and proceed to yank out all of the big boys (the prime brood stock), leaving only dinks, what you may end up with is a pond full of genetically inferior fish that takes you years to recover, if ever.

In closing, I would humbly like to add to Lee's timeless motto in that not only is a good game fish too valuable to catch just once but a good fishery is too valuable, and rare, a resource to squander. Think about it, please.

Catch and Release Recipe

by Chef Eric Lowrey - NCFE

For those who practice catch and release, here is a recipe to satisfy your taste for something fishy.

Fall is fast upon us so now is the time for creamy textured fish such as Sturgeon or Escolar. If you can't find either of those, Halibut will do.

Escolar with Apple Sweet Potato Hash and Creamed Spinach

Ingredients

4 - 4-6 oz. Portions of Escolar, Sturgeon or Halibut

1 Granny Smith Apple, chopped in 1/4" cubes

2 Sweet Potatoes peeled and chopped into 1/4" cubes

6 Slices of Bacon *(optional) sliced into 1/2" slices

1 Onion diced into 1/4" cubes

1 lb Spinach

1/2 lb Cremini Mushrooms
– Quartered

1 Shallot finely diced

1 cup Heavy Cream

1/2 cup Apple Cider

1/2 tsp. Dried Thyme

Steps

Preheat oven to 450 degrees

In heavy skillet, cook Bacon to render fat. Bacon is crisp.

Remove Bacon and place sweet potatoes and onion in fat over moderate heat. Cook until potatoes and onions are browned. Add apple and heat through. Add salt and pepper to taste.

In heavy ovenproof skillet heat 2 Tbs of olive oil

Salt and pepper both sides of fish.

Over high heat, sear 1 side of fish

Place pan in oven. Cook not more than 10 minutes until fish has resistance to the touch. (flakey fish is over done fish)

While fish is in oven, sauté shallot in 1 Tbsp of olive oil. In a wide bottomed saucepan over medium heat.

Add mushrooms. Increase heat and brown mushrooms.

Add cream and cider and thyme. Increase heat to boil. Reduce liquid by one half.

Add spinach just to wilt greens.

Add bacon to spinach.

Plating

(On 4 plates) Mound 1/4 of spinach to center of each plate

Mound 1/4 hash on top of creamed spinach

Place 1 piece of fish on top of hash

Drizzle some of reduced cream over fish.

Fishing Strategies: The Way of the Trout

by Roger Maler FFF Southern Council
President for *On the Fly* newsletter of
the *Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette*

Trout and other species are habitual and predictable in their behavior. Spending untold hours just watching them and thousands of days trying to outwit them, brings me to this conclusion. Trying to put myself in the trout's head (I call it the Homer Simpson theory). I look for the holding places before I even enter the water so as to minimize my efforts. I often wonder if the trout is Homer or is it me, probably a little of both! If you take anything to streamside from this article put this in caps. In all waters there are finite numbers of holding places and your memory is the blueprint for hook-ups. Wherever a fish is taken or a bump is telegraphed to your fingers, a fish will be holding there from now on! That is why guides make a living on almost every trout venue in the world.

Consider these spots as the queue line at McDonalds drive through. A fish will return to, or be replaced by, another one every time. It has also been learned over the years that 75% of hook-ups are from fish I never saw. Therefore look for holding water not the trout. Guides know this but wish you to believe they can see all the fish thus contributing to their mystique.



Fundamentals and Foundation of Fly Fishing for Trout

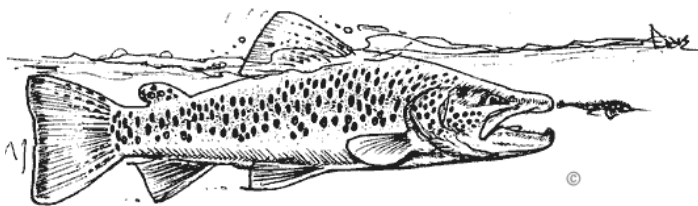
by Roger Grant - NCFE

In this day of power outages, cell phone, and the internet have we somehow drifted away from the fundamentals and foundation of fly fishing for trout?

Technology and advancements in the world of fly fishing are important however, what about the skills required to cast a fly and understanding a little about entomology? The finest fly rod will not make you an outstanding caster or allow you to hook and land that trout or steelhead if there is not some understand of the river or creek you are on. Why not take time out to do a little studying of the stream or creek you plan on fishing? Look at the deep pools, riffles, and see if you know where the trout or steelhead maybe and what is the factor that holds them to this area. Is there a reason why the tail of a pool maybe more productive than the head? And if so why? It is hard to hook a trout even if you know where they should be if you don't understand a little about entomology or their food source. If you can narrow down the food supply the rest may be easier than you think. The "perfect pattern" may not be as simple as choosing between a Royal Wolf or Picket Pin or other patterns that they have never seen before. However if the trout are zeroing in on nymphs the chances of interesting one in a dry fly are probably not good. If a steelhead is fresh in from the lake they may only look at something they are use to feeding on and not anything else. This is not to say that opportunistic feeding is not possible but the least likely to work.

Did I mention presentation! The perfect cast means nothing if it is not presented in a natural fashion. How should the fly appear? As an example, while fishing Oil Creek this year I could see the trout feeding but after presenting everything but the kitchen sink I had not felt the tug on the line I so desperately want to feel. Above and to the right of where I was, a couple were landing trout on a steady basis. I could not stand it any longer and went over to find out what I was doing wrong and they were doing right? They were fishing a simple spinner pattern in the riffles where the trout were feeding. As soon as I changed flies I had a trout on. If I had stayed with the nymph pattern I had been using, I still would not had the delight in landing a trout. If I had taken time out and just looked to see what was taking place, I would had seen the Blue wing olive spinners and knew what fly to try on that day.

I believe the three basic ingredients to success are presentation, understanding the trout or steelhead and knowing the creek or river and its structure. We all know this but sometime the technology gets in the way!



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Schedule of Upcoming NCFE Events

October 1	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker - Brian Flechsig	Penitentiary Glen 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
October 8	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
November 5	Membership Meeting Beginner Fly Tying & Favorite Fly Guest Speaker to be determined	Lake Farm Parks 6:30 - 7:45 PM 8:00 - 10:00 PM
November 12	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM
December 3	Holiday Dinner & Membership Meeting Favorite Fly, Mega Raffle & Dinner	Pine Ridge Country Club 6:30 - 10:00 PM
December 10	Board Meeting	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 - 9:00 PM



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