

the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

Volume 4 Issue 1

March 2007

President's Corner

The February meeting was a casualty of the Lake Erie snow machine, cancelled due to the weather. Hopefully the weather will improve enough that the Steelhead season will prove to be the best ever. The weather will have to change drastically very soon to give the rivers a chance to get back to fishable conditions.

The club membership has changed somewhat over the past year, highs and then lows. Currently we have 41 members that have paid their dues for 2007 (and some into 2008). 23 members that did pay dues in 2006, still need to do so in 2007. We have had about 33-39 people in attendance at the fall and winter meetings. 9 individuals that are on our mailing list, paid dues in 2005, but have not since. Members drop out for many reasons; business, family, health, etc. Hopefully the reason for dropping out of the club is not due to the conditions in the club such as the club is not meeting the expectations of the members by not providing a quality fly fishing experience.

Please keep in mind that any of the Board members are open to any suggestions to improve the club experience. If anyone has any suggestions, please make them known either at the meeting or to any board member. If we don't know about your concerns then we can't fix the problem. Enough of the serious stuff...

Spring is just around the corner which means Steelhead and Trout fishing time is almost here. Time to get all your fishing equipment tuned up for the upcoming season. There are still fly tying classes at Gander Mountain and also rod building classes (more info below). There are always many flies to tie so take advantage of the free classes. If you haven't tried rod building, then by all means expand your skills and try rod building.

Good Fishing,

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Editor's Notes

Thanks to Mother Nature, some of us managed to stay out of the dog house by staying in the house on Valentine's Day. The February 14th General Meeting was cancelled due to the largest snow storm of the season. A few items will be carried over to the March meeting and our guest speakers will be invited back in better weather - likely to be re-scheduled for a meeting in the fall.

Membership Updates and Name Tags

At future meetings, we will be signing people in upon arrival. This will just help to make sure we have everyone's e-mail, address and phone number correct. We will also verify your membership status at this point. You can pay or sign up with **Brent Feorene**, Director of Membership at the meetings – check or cash. At this time, we will distribute the name tags too, which will help me keep them in order and get an attendance. Thanks ahead for your understanding and assistance!

New Ohio fishing licenses for 2007 are required beginning March 1st.

All prices remain the same as 2006. For information on regulations, prices and vendors, please visit: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/regs/fishregs/licensefees.htm>

New Section – Web Links

I have added a new section (as of January) below with web links and will try and include useful links each month, please let me know if you have any favorites that other members should know about.

If you would like to submit a fishing story, classified, a favorite fly, web link or information for fellow members, please contact me at t_timefff@yahoo.com Deadline for entries is the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Tim Schulz
Director of Communications, Firelands Fly Fishers

Future Events

Firelands Fly Fishers meets at 6:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at French Creek Nature Center, 4530 Colorado Ave. (Rt. 611) in Sheffield Village.

March 14th Meeting – Our guest speaker is **Kevin Compton**, guide, commercial fly-tyer, fly tying instructor and member of USA Fly Fishing Team. Kevin was tying his Czech Nymph pattern at a table adjacent to ours at the Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo in January. Come here about Kevin's experiences and learn some valuable new techniques in nymphing and fly tying!!



Also, we will be voting on the April presentation that **Glenn Weisner** is providing. Voting is between programs on “Terrestrials” or “South Central Pennsylvania.”

April 11th Meeting – **Glenn Weisner** of the Glenn River Fly Company in Toledo will be our presenter. www.glennriver.com We will be voting at the March 14th meeting on which presentation Glenn will share with us (see above).

Upcoming Meeting Dates will be May 9 and June 13 is our summer picnic

"Tie one on Nights" – Moving to Wednesday!

Fly Tying Classes in the Lodge at Gander Mountain

Gander Mountain is our home for "Tie one on Nights". Please join us to learn or share a new pattern, or just load your box up for the spring while partaking in friendly conversation. Fly tying continues in the Lodge Room on **Thursdays from 6 PM until 9 PM**. Gander Mountain is located in Cobblestone Square in Sheffield on Rt. 301 (Abbe) south of Rt. 254 (Detroit). All are welcomed!!

Please note, sessions are now on Wednesday: Upcoming Schedule: March 7, 21, 28 & April 4, 18, 25

Rod Building Classes, Tuesday nights in April

Have you wanted to build yourself a fly rod? Or have you wanted a \$200 model, but only want to spend \$100? Here is your chance. Several experienced Firelands' members are offering their services to help fellow fly fishers through this process. Director of Fly Tying, **Tom Zmina**, is coordinating the classes at Gander Mountain.

Members who wish to build a rod must attend the first session with a rod building kit in hand. If you are a novice, we recommend purchasing a rod building kit to insure that you have all the components required to build a complete rod. Suggested suppliers are Cabela's (www.cabelas.com) and Hook & Hackle (www.hookhack.com or 412-476-8620) Hook & Hackle is advertising a special sale on rod kits this week, through March 9.

Other materials you will find helpful (and some of these can be shared within the group):

- Masking tape for marking the spine and building up the blank under the reel seat
- Rat-tail file to bore out cork handle
- Tape measure
- Sand paper to rough up blank
- Emory cloth, fine file, or electric grinding tool for finishing guide feet
- Razor blade for cutting thread
- Wrapping stand
- Small brushes for applying epoxy to wraps
- 91% alcohol

Lorain County Metroparks Outdoor Weekend

This annual event will be at Sandy Ridge Reservation in North Ridgeville on June 2 and 3. Firelands Fly Fishers will have a table at the event and will take part in teaching people to enjoy the great outdoors. Volunteers are needed to promote the club and the sport of fly fishing. We will be signing people up at the general meetings.

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

This large show is held in Warren, MI (west of Detroit) on March 10 and 11. <http://www.mffc.org>

Web Links

<http://www.troutnut.com> - You could spend a whole day on this site...and I bet a few of you will! I was introduced to it by Jason, the author/owner himself, when he put the site up. He e-mailed a few guys in my fishing crowd back in Wisconsin to announce that he had been taking photos of Nymphs and scenic trout rivers and was putting them on-line. Now look what he has!! Excellent under water photos and close ups of aquatic life. If you like photography or want to learn more about trout habitat- go here!

<http://www.fishingguidenetwork.com> – traveling this spring or summer? Check here for guide availability or even just to link to some local information or shops.

Fly of the Month, March

Tom's Copper Clouser

Hook - Any Salt Water hook, size 8 to 2/0.

This sample was tied on an Eagle Claw #084F size #4

Eyes - Medium size Brass Bead Chain.

Thread - Gudebrod GX2.

Lower body - Krystal flash - Copper color.

Upper body - Flashabou - Copper color.



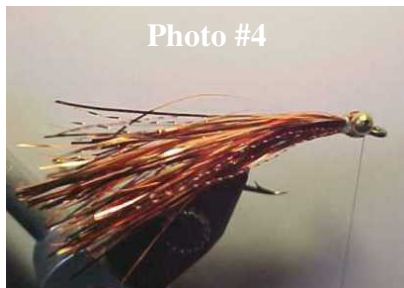
Picture # 1 Tie in the bead chain eyes just behind the hook eye as a Clouser style. Add head cement to make it firm to the hook shank.



Picture # 2 Tie in about 12 to 15 strands, at the mid point of the copper Krystal Flash, in front of the bead chain eyes. Fold them over and tie them in behind the bead chain eyes to allow the Krystal flash to lay down. Trim to about 2" length.



Picture # 3 Tie in about 20 to 30 strands at the mid point of the copper Flashabou in front of the bead chain eyes.



Picture # 4 Fold them over and tie them in behind the eyes to allow the Flashabou to lay down. Trim to about 2" length.

Picture # 5 Whip finish the head in front of the bead chain eyes and secure with head cement.

This is a streamer pattern that Bill Grake, Earl James, and I used on Spanish Mackerel while fishing about 14 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico off Marathon Key in Florida. The pattern was so good that they were busting the surface to attack it.

Fish it as any Clouser bait fish imitation. It works great in salt water. I will see how it works on Small-mouth this spring. What do I call it? How about "Tom's Copper Clouser."

For step by step photos, as well as previous Fly of the Month recipes, please visit our web site at <http://www.firelandsflyfishers.org> and click on Fly of the Month.

Tom Zmina
Director of Fly Tying, Firelands Fly Fishers

Federation of Fly Fishers Mission

The mission of the Federation of Fly Fishers is to lead activities that enhance and support the fly fishing experience for all anglers who fish with the artificial fly. As part of our efforts to educate through fly fishing, we believe that ethical behavior is a key component of the angling experience. While the need to preserve for all anglers the natural beauty and quality of fisheries for future generations is paramount, consideration for fellow anglers cannot be overlooked.

Condensed version of the nine behaviors of the Federation of Fly Fishers' Code of Angling Ethics

- Fly anglers understand and obey laws and regulations associated with the fishery.
- Fly anglers believe fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility.
- Fly anglers conserve fisheries by limiting their catch.
- Fly anglers do not judge fellow anglers and treat them as they would expect to be treated.
- Fly anglers respect the waters occupied by other anglers so that fish are not disturbed
- When fishing from a watercraft, fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft or unnecessarily disturb the water.
- Fly anglers respect other angling methods and promote this Code of Angling Ethics to all anglers.

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Firelands Fly Fishers Board of Directors

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

President: **Bill Grake**

Vice President: **Steve Smith**

Secretary: **Dave Tolhurst**

Treasurer: **Bill Graw**

Director of Annual Funding: **Ted Zalenski**

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