

the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

Volume 4 Issue 3

May 2007

President's Corner

In the Spring a young man's fancy turns to love but an older man's fancy turns to trout fishing and hatches. You can chase Steelhead in the local rivers, but for any serious trout fishing you must travel to Pennsylvania.

The hatches that bring Trout to the surface will be starting soon such as Caddis, Cahill, Sulphurs, etc. A three-hour trip to Oil Creek will put you in the midst of thousands of hatching flies and another hour will put you in the State College area and fantastic hatches.

The trip to Penn's Creek in June is full with 14 members attending. We are planning another trip to as yet an unknown stream. Anyone have any good PA or West Virginia locations??? If so let me know. If you are a neophyte trout fisher then keep in mind that 90% of the hatches will occur by the middle of June which means there is a short time frame in which the hatches occur.

The May meeting will be at Northgate Park off of Rt. 611 in Avon. We will have our fly casting meeting at the park. The meeting will have 3 casting sessions; Beginner, Advanced and Distance Casting. Bring your fly rod to get hands on instruction. Directions to the park follow in this newsletter.

Tickets for the summer picnic raffle will be available at the May meeting. We have a custom made 5wt Trout Rod with a Scientific Anglers 2-L reel and a custom made 7 wt Steelhead Rod with a Pflueger Mid Arbor Reel. A complete list of prizes will be available at the meeting. Tickets are \$10 each with a total of 200 tickets for sale. This low number of tickets gives you a better chance of being a winner. This is the club's premier fund raiser for the year so please support the club by purchasing tickets. If any members have any ideas about fund raising events for the club please pass them on to any Board member. Our monthly raffles generate about \$50 per month and the annual raffle usually generates \$400. This is not a great amount of income and we seem to operate by a shoestring...so if anyone has any solutions then please speak up.

The June picnic is also when we have election of officers. Jim Mertz has again taken on the task of getting a slate of candidates. **Dave Tolhurst** is not running for the office of Secretary so we need

members to run for this office. Many thanks to Dave for all his hard work and efforts for the club. Dave was a member of the North Coast Fly Fishers Club for many years and his knowledge and experience has been very valuable to the Firelands Fly Fishers.

Good Fishing,

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Editor's Notes

April Meeting – Special thanks to **Glenn Weisner** and **Wayne Samson** of the Glenn River Fly Company for their terrific presentation on some select streams in south central Pennsylvania. It was informative, educational and had some great photos to boot! 33 members were in attendance.

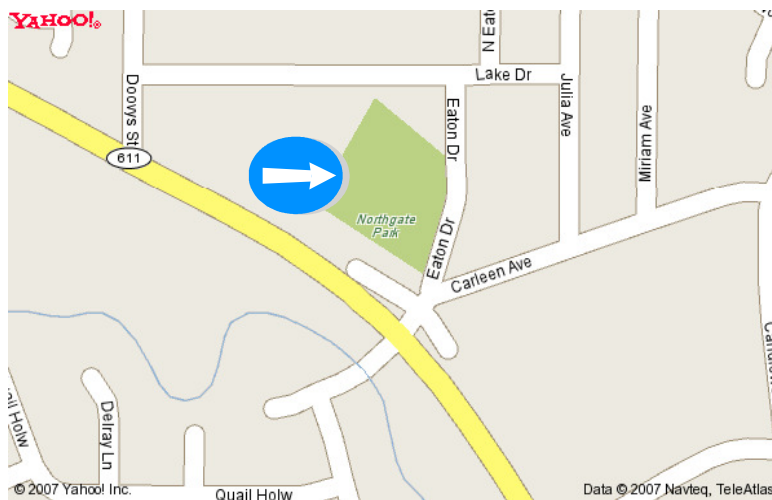
Please note the outdoor locations for our May and June meetings. Also, there will not be any club meetings or fly tying in July or August. We will resume meeting on September 12th.

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.

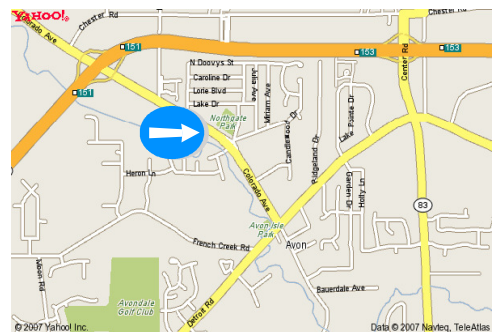
Tim Schulz
Director of Communications, Firelands Fly Fishers

Future Events

May 9th Meeting – 6:30 PM; Fly Casting Demos and Instruction AT NORTH GATE PARK IN AVON. Please bring your fly rod to practice casting and pick up some pointers from our “more experienced” members.



Northgate Park is located south of I-90 and north of Detroit (Rt. 254) on the east side of Rt. 611. Turn east on to Eaton to access the park.

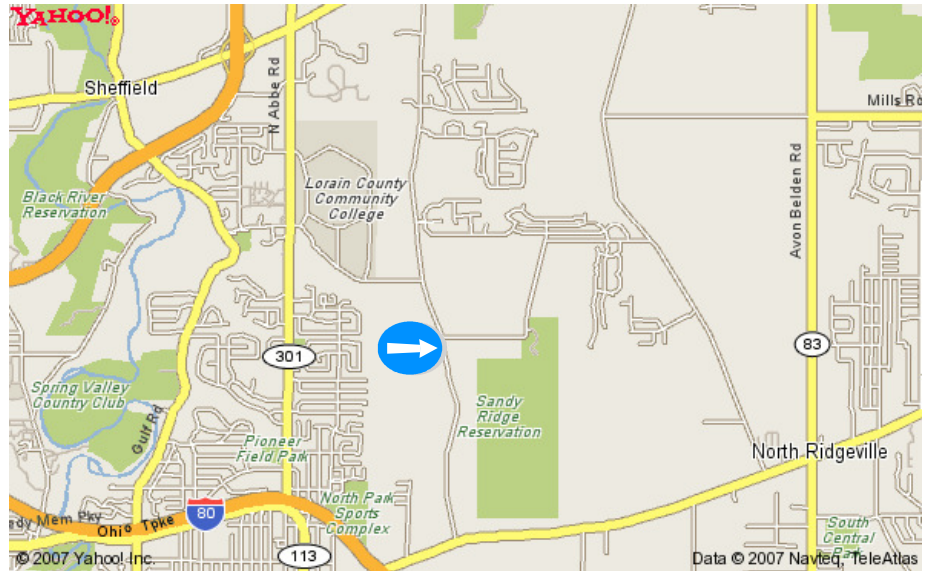


Fly Tying at Sandy Ridge Reservation on Wednesday Nights

Fly tying, like the birds in our area, has migrated to Sandy Ridge Reservation in North Ridgeville. The evening will begin with casting instruction outside and then move indoors for fly tying! Come tie some flies for your next trout trip or some local bass action. All are welcomed!!

Sandy Ridge is located north of Center Ridge Rd., east of Case and the entrance is on Otten Rd

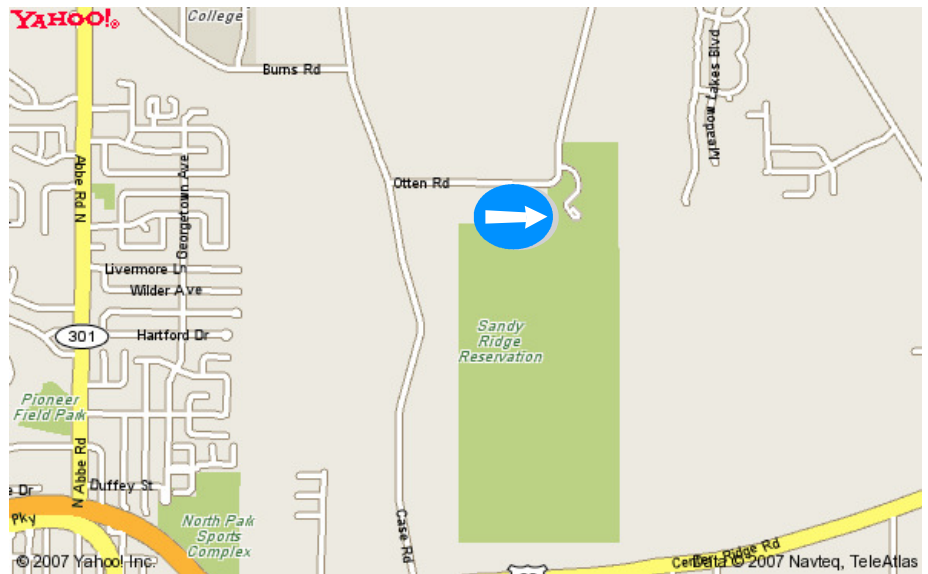
Sandy Ridge Fly Tying Schedule: May 2, 16, 23, and 30; June 6, 20, and 27



Lorain County Metroparks Outdoor Weekend – Volunteers Needed

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.



Federation of Fly Fishers National Conclave

The Federations' signature annual event takes place July 31st – August 4th in Livingston, MT.

Reel & Heal

Reeling and Healing, Inc. is a non-profit organization conducting fly fishing retreats for women who have had breast cancer. Retreats are led by professional facilitators and experienced fly-fishing instructors. Two retreats are scheduled with the first being in Wellston, MI July 22-24 and the second one is at Rockwell Springs Trout Club in Castalia, OH September 23-25. For more information: www.reelandheal.com

Fly of the Month, May - Clouser style Crayfish

The water is warming and the Smallmouth are getting active. I have combined ideas from many famous patterns and created a Clouser style crayfish. With the hook riding upward, it should help to make it snag resistant in the rocks.

Hook: Any long shank bass hook, Size 1-6

Thread: Heavy Olive

Eye: Lead eye. Small 1/40 oz. for small hook, Medium 1/30 oz. for larger hook

Antennae: Olive Crystal Flash

Claws: Partridge body feather, cleaned and trimmed to shape

Body: Olive and brown dubbing blend

Shell: Olive or Brown Swiss Straw



Completed Fly, photo #6



photo #1

Photo # 1 Wrap the hook shank with lead ribbon for weight. Tie in the lead eyes, Clouser style, under the hook bend. Tie in the Crystal flash antennae facing out beyond the hook bend. Tie in a 6" length of light Mono line (facing out beyond the hook bend) to be used later to wrap the shell.



photo #2

Photo # 2 Tie in the claws facing out beyond the hook bend.



photo #3

Photo # 3 Tie in a 3" length of Swiss Straw on under side of the hook closest to the bend. Dub the body, heavy at the bend and taper lighter toward the hook eye.



photo #4

Photo # 4 Fold over the Swiss Straw as a shell and tie in at the hook eye.

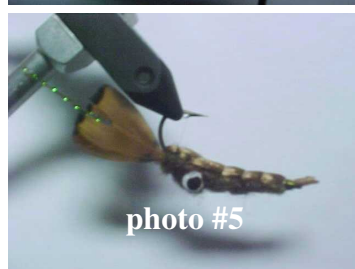


photo #5

Photo # 5 Spiral wrap the mono in wide wraps toward the hook eye to cinch down the shell and create body segments. Tie in the mono and trim the excess. Fan out the excess Swiss Straw and trim off the excess about 1/4" beyond the hook eye to create the fan tail fins. Whip finish the thread and seal with a small amount of head cement.

Photo # 6 Pick the dubbing with a bodkin to fluff the underside to create legs. Trim on a contour, shorter at the hook eye and longer at the bend. Color in the eye with a black marker and accent the body and tail with light touch of the marker.

For previous Fly of the Month recipes, please visit our web site at <http://www.firelandsflyfishers.org>

Tom Zmina, Director of Fly Tying, Firelands Fly Fishers

Web Links

<http://www.animatedknots.com> – yep, exactly what you would expect and whole lot more. If you are looking for a knot – for fishing, boating, mountain climbing? – it is here.

Maybe you will be redecorating your home this summer or decorating a vacation home. Or you need to buy some wedding or graduation gifts. Or maybe you just like to look at fishing art; I have a few links below for you to check out.

<http://www.canvasfish.com> – fish paintings by Derek DeYoung of Grand Rapids, Michigan
<http://www.dolack.com> – a personal favorite, Monte Dolack of Missoula, Montana specializes in commissioned environmental paintings. Most art features fish, wildlife and scenery of the northern Rockies.
<http://www.dianemichelin.com> – Fly Fishing Fine Art, oil painting artist from Canada
<http://www.davidruimveldstudio.com> – David brought his beautiful paintings (and frames!) to the January North Coast Fly Fishing Expo. Visit his site to see more of his collection. He features Great Lakes rivers and fish in most of his work.
<http://www.gillandfinn.com/index.html> - the man's Crate and Barrel store! Rustic furniture, trout art, fishing gifts, cabin décor, grilling accessories and more...oh, yeah there is even trout jewelry! I think I'll be shopping here for my buddies' weddings.

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.

Firelands Fly Fishers Board of Directors

Nominations for Board positions are being taken in May. Voting will take place with appointments in June. 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**

Director of Communications: **Tim Schulz**

Director of Fly Tying: **Tom Zmina**

Director of Membership: **Brent Feorene**

Director of Outings: **John Sabo**

Director of Raffle: **Joe Sloboda**

Director of Web Site: **Rob Mastnardo**

Historian & Librarian: **Jim Walend**

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