

the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

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President's Corner

The Clam Bake was a huge success even though we did not have enough people to make the caterer happy. The magic number was 50, but we could only lure 40 members and guests. Where else could you enjoy such a fine meal, beer and have a chance to win a bag of buns? **Ted Zalenski's** choice of beer was so good the keg was soon empty. But on the positive side, **Tim Schulz** and his dad managed to land two bass while fishing in Beaver Creek. A good time was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the efforts of our members who helped make the clam bake a success!

Up and coming in the education side of our club are fly tying classes and the second call for any and all interested in rod building classes. If you are interested in rod building class then contact **Steve Smith**, club Vice President. **Tom Zmina**, Dir. of Fly Tying, has classes scheduled almost weekly starting Nov. 8 at Gander Mountain. There are two fly tying expos in the future; Great Lakes Council is the first weekend in December at Ingham County Fairgrounds in Michigan and the North Coast expo the first Saturday in January at the Tri-C East Campus. This gives everyone something to do while waiting for the Steelhead fishing to get hot.

The November 14th club meeting features **Mike Laskowski** of Oil Creek Outfitters. Mike is giving a presentation of Mayflies, Caddis, and Stoneflies. Mike will definitely increase your Trout fishing skills with his presentation. I have known Mike for about 20 years and he is one of the best trout fishermen that I have ever met. Don't miss this presentation!

December 12th is the annual pot luck dinner; the club will provide the entrees and refreshments while the members provide sides and desserts. This is also our annual Swap Shop; bring your old tired and unused fly fishing equipment to swap or buy someone else's old, tired and unused fly tying equipment.

Last but not least is the Call to All Members; the Club needs someone as Director of Outings. The job includes organizing details for club trips or outings, as well as getting refreshments for the meetings and the annual picnic. Contact a Board member if interested.

Some words of wisdom to leave you all with:

Words of Wisdom Gathered by Ron Newman (Taken from the Kaweah Fly Fishers Newsletter)

Life is more than a can of worms, but is less than a Royal Coachman.

Like hatches, most things in life occur in cycles. If you know the cycles will be successful.

Even beautiful things sometimes have a barbed hook.
Trout have shown me that you can get into trouble by opening your mouth.
Flies do not make very good earrings, particularly if you have never had your ears pierced.
De-barb your fly before trying it on as an earring or catching a fish you intend to release.
Never criticize anything prepared by the camp cook unless you are willing and able to take over his job.
Don't plan your evening meal around fish that you haven't yet caught.
If you consider the landing of a fish as a 'bonus', then you will always enjoy fishing.
If what you are trying isn't working, then try something else.
If you will need something while fly fishing, then don't keep it in your fishing vest.
Removing the barb doesn't decrease your effectiveness.
If you are observant it will improve your success as well as your enjoyment of the sport.
It takes more than expensive equipment to be proficient at what you are doing.
The joy of fly fishing is lost when you have a beer can in one hand and your rod in the other.
Fly fishers will share their knowledge, flies and gear but never their secret fishing lake.
One good vise is enough for any fly tier.
If you rock the boat or make waves, expect the skittish fish to scatter.
Don't wade into chest deep waters if you are only wearing hip waders.
A bad day of fly fishing is better than a good day at work.
Unless you enjoy fishing in a crowd don't advertise when the fishing is good.
A wind knot is a casting knot made when there were no witnesses.
The heavy-handed fisherman and his fish are soon parted.
Our trout have marvelous growth rates. They double in size each time story of their catch is retold.
About 20% of the fishermen catch about 80% of the fish.
What causes stress is different for fish than it is for people but the reactions are often the same.
Large fish establish and protect a territory leaving the smaller fish to school and compete with each other.

Good fishing,
Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Editor's Notes

October

October's general meeting was attended by 37 people, including 6 new guests. Thanks to **Monte Casey** and **Larry Elswick** for their presentations. 40 members and guests attended our wonderful Clam Bake, it was a good time with great beer and food and conversation. Thanks to all who put an extra effort into the evening!

Welcome New Members!

Please offer a special welcome to October's newest members, **Jim Davis** of Lorain and **Terry Diener** of Avon Lake.

Adobe Reader Update Available

Adobe Reader is the best way to view *the indicator* each month – whether you read it from the e-mail or on our web site. A new update for Adobe 8.1 is available as a free download at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

FFF Club Opportunity to Sign Up New FFF Members at Discounted Rate

From July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 club members may join the Federation at the special discounted price of \$15.00 for a regular one year individual membership. You may use current FFF applications and cross off the normal \$35 rate and write in \$15. **Membership form must be signed by the club president** to certify that the applicant is a member of the affiliate club. This is not for FFF membership renewals.

- These will qualify for credits towards Rod New Member Incentive Program during this promotion period. •

FFF National Home Office Life Membership Offer

Until December 31, 2007 the Federation of Fly Fishers is offering a life membership promotion. For \$750, a new life member will have a choice of a Sage 590-4 Z-AXIS Series Rod in 5 wt OR a Sage 890-4 Xi2 8 wt. Also offered is a lifetime couple's membership for \$1250 (two rods given). Payments must be made in full and can be made by credit card. For more information please see a member of our board and visit

www.fedflyfishers.org

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

Rod Building Classes, Tuesdays 6:30 PM, Nov. 20 & 27, Dec. 4 & 11 at Gander Mountain

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. Firelands members will be gathering at Gander Mountain (Sheffield) in a few weeks to teach or learn the process. Vice President, **Steve Smith** is coordinating the classes. Volunteers with rod building experience are invited and encouraged to assist. The room is available beginning at 6:00 and everyone should try and arrive by 6:30 PM.

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.hookhackle.com or 412-476-8620) Hook & Hackle often advertises specials – look for special pricing or 20% off on that web site.

Also, anyone that has an old cane rod he wishes to recondition, **Ted Zalenski** is offering his help in that regard.

To sign up, RSVP by e-mail to Steve Smith at pnpinc@alltel.net

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

Fly Tying at Gander Mountain on Thursday Nights, 6 PM – 9 PM

As Sandy Ridge closes for the season, Fly Tying heads over to the warmer (and brighter) location, Gander Mountain's Lodge Room. Director of Fly Tying, **Tom Zmina**, has put together a schedule of fly tying nights for anyone wishing to attend. Please come out and bring a friend. Gander Mountain is located in Cobblestone Square in Sheffield Village, near Rt. 301/Rt. 254 and I-90.

Gander Mountain Fly Tying Schedule: Nov. 8 and 29; Dec. 6, 13, 27; Jan. 3, 10, 24, 31

Please note that the third week of each month is skipped to allow for the Firelands Fly Fishers Board Meeting,

November 14th – General Meeting – 2 Guests

Once again, we welcome two guest speakers for the November meeting. Our first presentation will be from **Steve Vorkapich**. Steve runs a small business selling indicator floats. He will speak to us about some of those floats and techniques you can use for a better presentation and drift.

Our main presenter is **Mike Laskowski**. Mike is a certified FFF casting instructor, a signature fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants and owner of Oil Creek Outfitters in Titusville, PA. Mike's program will cover caddis, mayflies and stoneflies.

Upcoming General Meetings

December 12th – Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Party and Swap Shop

January 9th – Conservation speaker

February 13th – Steelhead Q & A Roundtable

GLC Annual Fly Tying Expo

Great Lakes Council Fly Tying Expo, Dec. 1, 2007 in Mason, MI (near Lansing). Several members are planning to attend this and carpooling will take place. For more info: <http://www.ffglc.org/reports.html>

North Coast Fly Tying Expo

This event is scheduled for Saturday, January 5, 2008 at Cuyahoga Community College East Campus.

Fly Fishing Destinations – Oil Creek

by Bill Grake

Driving 2 ½ hours east of Cleveland you will find Oil Creek, a tributary of the Allegheny River. Oil Creek stretches from Drake Well in Titusville south to Oil City. Most of the stream, about 17 miles, is paralleled by a bike path. Sections of the stream are designated as DHALO (delayed harvest artificial lures only) which means fishing is year round, 2 fish can be taken per day from June 15 to September 15 by artificial lures only. Other sections follow standard Pennsylvania trout fishing rules.

Oil Creek has some of the most prolific hatches of Caddis, Sulphurs, and Cahills that you will find in the Eastern US. The prime time for the hatches is May into mid June. The evening hatches go on until about 10 pm and number in the hundreds of thousands.

Oil Creek fishes well, starting in March, depending upon the weather with the Grannom Caddis hatch and you will find the parking lot in the State Park full of cars with Ohio license plates. As the water warms up you will find better fishing conditions and more hatches and of course more fishermen. Weekday fishing is

much better. I have had some of the best fishing on Memorial Day. The park is crowded with the picnic crowd, but no fishermen. After the water is too warm for trout, then the smallmouth bass come into Oil Creek with the best bass fishing in Oil City near Pizza Hut. The state stocks the stream in the Fall when water conditions are more favorable to trout fishing.

As you enter Oil Creek State Park off Route 8, just north of Rouseville you will cross an iron bridge which divides the DHALO and regular trout water. You can not possess fish below the bridge. Oil Creek is a large stream (up to 60 ft) which has a variety of flat and moving water and is full of trout waiting to be caught.

For up to date river and fishing conditions go to www.oilcreekoutfitters.com. Mike's fly shop is on Rt. 8 just south of Titusville.

To get to Oil Creek take the Ohio Turnpike east to exit 218 which is I-80 East into PA. Go to the Rt. 8 exit, which is about 30 miles into PA. Rt. 8 North goes through Franklin and Oil City through Rouseville and look for the Oil Creek State Park sign just over the bridge over Oil Creek. Following this road up and down the hills will take you to Oil Creek State Park.

Oil Creek is close enough for a day trip for some great trout fishing.

Fly of the Month, November – Griffith's Gnat

Hook: dry fly #18 to 22

Thread: fine olive thread 8/0

Body: peacock herl with a grizzly hackle feather

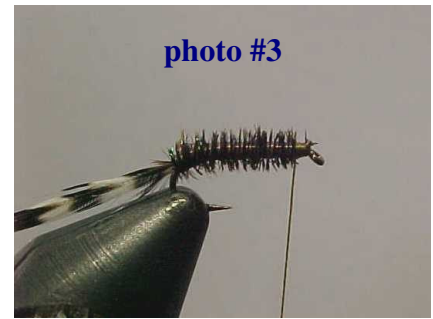
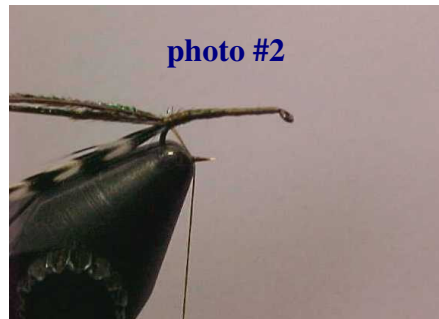


Photo # 1 Build a thread base and tie in the grizzly hackle at the bend.

Photo # 2 Tie in the peacock herl at the bend.

Photo # 3 Wrap the thread forward to the eye, then wrap the peacock herl to just short of the eye and tie off.

Photo # 4 Spiral wrap the grizzly hackle to the eye and tie off. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Technique: Drift as a dry fly in the film as trout are feeding on midges.

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

Fly Line Care

Some tips and advice, taken from MidCurrent - www.midcurrent.com

Fly Line Care Most modern fly lines contain lubricant additives in their coatings and need only occasional cleaning using hand soap and water on a cloth to maintain their casting and floating characteristics. On the water, wiping with a damp cloth is helpful. Commercially available lubricants will also add distance to your casts and can be applied to a wet line, although they work better if they are applied before your line gets wet.

Fly Line Memory All fly lines have "memory" — most often seen in the form of coils when line is first stripped from a reel, especially in stiffer lines made for warmer weather and distance casting. Taking the time to stretch your line in your hands after pulling it off of the reel will improve your casting distance and make it less likely that the loops of your fly line will tangle in the water or the bottom of the boat.

Fly Line Twist Many casters unknowingly put twist in their fly lines because their back casts are canted to one side, making a fly rod tip travel in a circle as they complete their forward cast. Bulky flies can also spin and add twist. There are two effective ways to remove fly line twist. One is simply to spin the fly line between thumb and forefinger in the opposite direction of the twist. The other is to false-cast a number of times while consciously reversing the direction of the circle made by the rod tip (e.g. overhead back cast and sidearm forward cast).

Watch Those Chemicals Keep sunscreen and bug repellent away from fly lines and flies. Most products will break down the PVC coating of fly lines, and most fish are very sensitive to smell.

Warm Weather Fly Lines When fishing in hot, tropical conditions use stiff fly lines with hard coatings designed for the heat, they will work much better than comparable freshwater lines. But don't expect these lines to perform well in cold weather, where softer coatings make a line more castable.

Sinking Fly Lines Sinking and sink-tip fly lines enable you to reach fish in fast and/or deep water where floating lines would keep your flies too high in the water column. The key number to be aware of is their sink rate, which typically ranges from 1.5 to 9.5 inches per second. The faster and deeper the water, the faster the sink rate required.

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: **Joe Sloboda**

Treasurer: **Bill Graw**

Director of Annual Funding: **Ted Zalenski**

Director of Communications: **Tim Schulz**

Director of Fly Tying: **Tom Zmina**

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Director of Web Site: **Rob Mastnardo**

bahiapark@yahoo.com

pnpinc@alltel.net

archwoodangler@yahoo.com

william_j_graw@keybank.com

zmant@att.net

T_timeFFF@yahoo.com

Zminat@yahoo.com

brentfeorene@roadrunner.com

briandepalma@adelphia.net

r.mastnardo@firelandsflyfishers.org
