

the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

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President's Corner

Firelands Fly Fishers, in their short existence, have contributed to the education of many fly fishers. We have taught them about the equipment needed to fly fish and how to use the equipment. Fly casting and fly tying classes along with rod building have aided all the new fly fishers in their quest for a fly caught fish. It is time to raise our fly fishing education to a higher level, that being the start of Project Healing Waters. To the uninitiated, the following explains Project Healing Waters:

“Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing” is a program dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing instruction, fly tying education, and outings (see www.projecthealingwaters.org). A successful effort, buttressed by the volunteerism of several chapter members, is ongoing now at Walter Reed, and there is an opportunity to expand the program to veterans at the Washington VA hospital. Other Chapters are serving veterans in hospitals in additional states.

In June, a proposal was made to the PPCTU Board asking permission to approach the PPCTU Membership through the listserv to determine whether sufficient membership interest – bodies, time and availability -- existed to support the roll-out of the PHW program to the Washington VA hospital. The Board endorsed this approach and asked me to carry the message to the membership in this call to action.

There are three components to the program: 1. Fly fishing 101/fly casting instruction; 2. Fly tying instruction; and 3. Outings (getting the vets out on the water). While the final number of volunteers needed is yet to be determined and will be based on actual veteran interest/participation at the hospital, it is necessary that we are able to represent to the VA hospital therapy staff that we have a committed core group of volunteers to get the program off the ground.

The initial volunteer needs assessment breaks out this way:

Fly fishing 101/fly casting instruction – 3 committed volunteers (based on experience at Walter Reed, fly casting instructors should have some teaching experience and not just be good casters)

Fly tying instruction – 3 committed volunteers

Outings – volunteer needs variable depending on location of outing(s), frequency, and number of vets; this can be more of a pool of volunteers that would respond as outings are scheduled

If there is a sufficient 'show of hands' from the membership in each of the categories above, the next step would be to meet with the hospital therapy staff director to confirm the Chapter's involvement and to outline the shape of the program. Following that discussion, the hospital would then post the program availability internally to the vets to ascertain their specific interest and get their names down on a list. Finally, a kick-off meeting would be held between all the groups where participants, participant needs, scheduling, class length, final volunteer needs, etc. would be nailed down.

We are in the early stages of the Project and have talked of starting a program with the Sandusky VA. The first step is having enough volunteers to adequately run the program. **This means we need NEW PEOPLE to help in the program.** The program would involve an activity about every 2 weeks from spring through fall. All the club projects to date always involve the same few faces. We will have a discussion about the program at the club meeting on April 8. In order to help out our Veterans and make life a little easier and more enjoyable then we need to have more of our members step forward and say THANKS to a veteran by giving some of their time. Many Veterans have given much more to our Country - is it too much for our club members to give a few hours 2 or 3 times a month?

The March speaker (Matt Hynes) did a good job of wetting our appetite for Steelhead fishing. So far the local steelheading has been on the slow side. We need a major rain to get a new run into the local streams. This is a first that we need RAIN - usually we have too much. The only river that has had good fishing has been the Ashtabula River.

Good Fishing!!

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Future Events

General Club Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at French Creek Nature Center, 4530 Colorado Ave. Sheffield Village. Meetings begin socially at 6:30 PM.

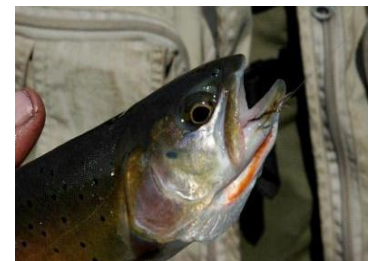


Last Meeting: March 11th – Matt Hynes, Steelhead Fly Fishing

We had some good weather and daylight savings time kicked in and our largest crowd of the year came out to see Matt Hynes (Chagrin River Outfitters) offer some of his expert opinions on steelhead tactics. It was a timely presentation with great photos and straight forward advice. Thanks Matt! 42 members attended.

Next Meeting: April 8th – Bob Mihaly and John Rose, Fly Fishing the Front Range

Featured speakers at April's meeting will be Bob Mihaly and John Rose, doing a presentation on "Fly Fishing the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies." Bob and John are both from Canton, Ohio and have spent an enormous amount of time during the summer months camping and fishing this area of Colorado for trout. They will discuss the techniques and flies needed to be successful in this region. If time allows they will demonstrate tying a couple of the most effective fly patterns or share some of a second presentation on fishing Yellowstone.



2009 Monthly Meeting Schedule

May 13th – Casting Night, Walker Road Park, Avon Lake

June 10th – Annual Summer Picnic and Raffle

July and August – Firelands Fly Fishers does not meet these months

September 9th – Resume meeting at French Creek for 2009-2010 Firelands Season

Special Sunday Fly Tying Appearances at Gander Mountain

Tom Zmina continues his "celebrity fly tying appearances" on Sunday, April 19th at Gander Mountain. Tom and anyone wishing to join him will be tying decorative fly pattern earrings for women from 3 – 5 PM. Any additional help is welcome and please spread the word to your fishing friends (ladies too)!

Fly Tying Sessions for April and May

Fly tying is open to everyone and begins at 6 PM in the Lodge Room. The club does have some tools and vices available for your use and there are plenty of people available for instructions or advice. Gander Mountain is located in Cobblestone Square in Sheffield Village, near Rt. 301/Rt. 254 and I-90.

**Lodge Room at Gander Mountain: Wednesdays in April 1, 15, 22, 29 (general meeting on 8)
Vermilion Fish & Game Club: Wednesday in May 6, 20, 27 (casting night on May 13)**

May fly tying will be held at the Vermilion Fish and Game Club from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We will be working jointly with members of the Vermilion Fish and Game club to instruct them on tying and casting. Any volunteers will be welcomed and encouraged to help with the casting or tying. The Vermilion Fish & Game Club is located at 13617 Thompson Rd, Vermilion, OH 44089

Mohican and Clear Fork fishing events

Bamboo Bash will be held on May 9th at the Bellville American Legion Pavilion for anyone who likes to fish with cane. <http://www.mohicanflyfishersofohio.com/files/2009BambooBash.pdf>

Also, the Mohican Wildlife Weekend is May 1-3 and the Mohican Fly Fishers will be tying at casting near the covered bridge in the state park. <http://www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com>

Firelands Fly Fishers Trips and Outings

Fly Fishing for bass in Erie's Presque Isle Bay is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 16. Date may change depending on water temps and conditions in the bay. There is also a possibility of another trip to Oil Creek. At the April meeting, we will be discussing or gauging interest in a seminar day at Sunnybrook, most likely on a Monday in June or July.

This year's annual PA Trout Trip finds us heading to the Youghiogheny River June 1-3. Bill Grake has reserved a rental home (rental is full) along the river and plans are being made for camping as well.

Fishing the Clear Fork: Ted Zalenski is gathering information for an April or May outing to the Clear Fork. The date may totally depend on water conditions. Ted would like to schedule something during the week for camping or just a day trip to avoid the crowds. If we have a lot of rain, the streams will be blown out and hard to fish. Jim Stone of the Mohican Fly Fishers (FFF Club) has been contacted for more info. Their site, www.mohicanflyfishersofohio.com gives pertinent info (flies, water conditions etc.) in the "fishing the river" section.

If anyone is interested in either camping or just going down for the day, contact Ted at zmant@att.net. Anyone wishing to camp should make their own reservations once a date is set. Ted will pass on camping info to those interested once he has it.

**"O, sir, doubt not that Angling is an art;
is it not an art to deceive a trout with an artificial fly?"**

- Isaak Walton

Fly of the Month, April - Crystal Bugger

This is a variation of a wooly bugger that can be tied in any combination of colors that a steelhead would chase. This example was tied in fluorescent orange colors.

Hook: Mustad #3399 Wet Nymph Hook Size 4.

Bead head: 3/16 Copper bead.

Thread: Fluorescent Orange #140 waxed.

Tail accent: 6 strands of Fluorescent Orange Krystal Flash.

Tail feather: Fl. Orange Marabou feather.

Body: Cactus Chenille, Large, Hot Orange.

Photo # 1 Install the bead head on the hook and slide it up to the eye. Tie in a base of thread. Tie in the six strands of Krystal Flash to accent the tail.

Photo # 2 Measure for a tail to match the length of the hook shank and tie in the Marabou feather as the tail. Do not trim off the excess feather.

Photo # 3 Tie in the Cactus Chenille at the same point that the tail was tied in. Bring the thread to the bead at the hook eye.

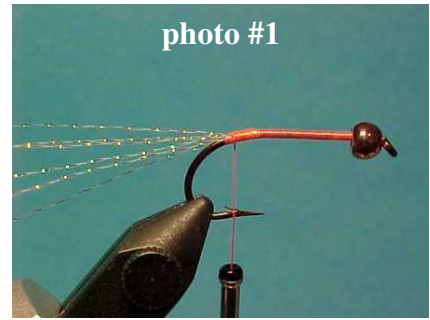
Photo # 4 Spiral wrap the butt end of the Marabou feather to the hook eye and tie it off. Trim off the excess butt of the feather.

Photo # 5 Spiral wrap the Cactus Chenille to the bead at the hook eye and tie it off. Trim off

*For Fly of the Month recipes and patterns,
please visit our web site at
www.firelandsflyfishers.org*

*Also, please join us for Fly Tying Nights at Gander Mountain
on Wednesdays. Details can be found in the event listing
of the indicator monthly newsletter*

Tom Zmina, Director of Fly Tying, Firelands Fly Fishers



News and Notes

Federation of Fly Fishers national office has moved

The national home office of the FFF has moved offices this past month. Please note that the new mailing address is: PO Box 1688, Livingston, MT 59047



FFF Magazine Moving Towards Sending Via E-mail

FFF is working towards being able to send out the *Flyfisher* Magazine to our members electronically. By sending the *Flyfisher* this way the FFF will be saving rising printing and postage costs that can then go towards our many programs. There is no need to send an e-mail to our office if you want to continue receiving the magazine by hard copy.

If You Want To Receive The Flyfisher by E-mail.

Send your e-mail to fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org

Please put the following in Subject Field of your e-mail: Flyfisher

Advise FFF member number if you have it on hand – not required

Give your full name – city & state – e-mail address you would like the magazine sent to

Welcome New Members!!

Please welcome the following new members that have joined the Firelands Fly Fishers since November: **Bill Grabiak** (Sheffield Village); **Robert Konstan** (Westlake); **Bradley and Margaret Richmond** (Lakewood); **Peter Bitz** (Lorain); **Roger Brownson** (Lorain); **Michael Bobincheck** (Avon Lake).
WELCOME!!

Membership Dues for 2009

If you have not done so, please remember to pay your membership dues for 2009. Club membership for one individual is \$10 for one year or \$25 for three years. Checks can be made to Firelands Fly Fishers and can be submitted at any club meeting or by mail to Firelands Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 244, Avon, OH 44011
Questions about your membership? Contact Brent Feorene, Dir. of Membership, at brentfeorene@att.net

Holy Mackerel Fishing Flea Market Sale

This popular sale takes place at the New Russia Township Hall, 46268 Butternut Ridge Road in Oberlin. The dates are Friday April 3rd, 9 – 8 PM; Saturday April 4th, 8 - 6 PM; Sunday April 5th, 11- 5 PM.
<http://cleveland.craigslist.org/eve/1009910377.html>

Reel & Heal Fly Fishing Retreats

Retreats designed for women that have or had breast cancer are conducted by Reeling and Healing, Inc., a non-profit organization. Retreats will be held May 17-19 and Sept 20-22 at Rockwell Springs and June 12-14 and July 5-7 in Wellston, MI. For more information go to www.reelandheal.com or e-mail **Judy Walle** (wife of Toledo fly tier Dick Walle) at judy.walle@reelandheal.com

OHIO DNR stocking and maps

The Ohio DNR website has been updated. Please visit the Division of Wildlife's Fishing page at this link <http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/4414/Default.aspx> Here you can get information on fishing licenses, the trout stocking schedule, the current walleye and white bass run reports, and in the summer reports for Lake Erie and inland lakes will be available.

Trout are being stocked this week by the DNR at Westlake Recreation Center and Hinckley Lake. Maps for many of the state's rivers, lakes and reservoirs are available as well.

Cleveland Metroparks

Trout stockings are taking place in the upper sections of the Rocky River East Branch between Rt. 82 and Berea, as well as in Wallace Lake. Mike Durkalec posts a weekly fishing report for the Rocky River at <http://blogs.clemetparks.com/rocky-river-fishing-report/> It is currently updated on Thursdays.

The annual Children's Fishing Derbies will take place on May 2nd at Wallace Lake in Berea and May 3rd at Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation in Cuyahoga Hts. 4-8 years old fish between 9 AM and Noon, and 9-15 years old fish from 1 PM until 4 PM.

The Cleveland Metroparks and the Rocky River Watershed Council have scheduled two river cleanups. The upper river cleanup in Middleburg Hts. and Berea will be on May 16 and the lower river cleanup that we participated in last year will be held on June 6. More details will be available in next month's newsletter.

Pennsylvania to stock Brown Trout in Lake Erie Tributaries

A lot of us (OK, maybe just me) have wondered why Ohio and Pennsylvania have not stocked brown trout along with the lake run steelhead that migrate in our streams. Follow this link to a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article on PA's plans to introduce the browns. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08363/938086-358.stm>

Obama Signs Bill Adding Two Million Acres to Wilderness

By [Marshall Cutchin](#) (article copied from www.midcurrent.com)

This morning (March 31) President Obama signed a landmark bill that gives wilderness status to 2.1 million acres of federal land. As we reported last Wednesday, much of land included in the legislation is inside of key watersheds like Wyoming's Snake River Basin or is adjacent to more than 1,000 miles of rivers in nearly a dozen states. At the signing, President Obama noted: "This legislation guarantees that we will not take our forests, rivers, oceans, national parks, monuments, and wilderness areas for granted. But rather we will set them aside and guard their sanctity for everyone to share." On the *Huffington Post*, Matthew Daly wrote, "The law -- a collection of nearly 170 separate measures -- represents [one of the largest expansions of wilderness protection in a quarter-century](#). The measure confers the government's highest level of protection on land in nine states -- almost as much wilderness as designated during the past eight years combined."

Firelands Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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

President: Bill Grake	bahiapark@yahoo.com
Vice President: Steve Smith	pnpinc@alltel.net
Secretary: Joe Sloboda	archwoodangler@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Bill Graw	william_j_graw@keybank.com
Director of Annual Funding: Ted Zalenski	zmant@att.net
Director of Communications: Tim Schulz	t_timeFFF@yahoo.com
Director of Fly Tying: Tom Zmina	zminat@yahoo.com
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Director of Outings: Carl Kocian	flyguy@centurytel.net
Director of Web Site: Rob Mastnardo	r.mastnardo@firelandsflyfishers.org
Librarian: Mike Janosko	mjanosko@aol.com
