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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

March was a bust for Steelhead Fishing with all the rain and snow. When the weather gets good enough for good fishing then all the streams should be full of Steelhead. The weather forecast finally looks good for this coming week.

The Ohio Council (OHC) is considering a motion to join the League of Ohio Sportsmen (LOOS) and the Ohio Wildlife Federation. I believe this would be good for the Ohio Council and all the FFF clubs in the state. It would give us a much larger base to work from and more political clout. The OHC is a relatively unknown group being as new as it is. Arguments for and against are being solicited by the OHC. If any member has any workings with either of the two groups then your opinions are welcomed. Please send them to me or any board member by the third week of April.

The fly fishing community has lost a very well known member. George Harvey, the Dean of Fly Fishing, of Penn State University died the last week of March at the age of 97. George started the very first college level fly fishing course at Penn State in 1947. He taught the class before this date as a non-credit course. He taught tens of thousands of students to fly fish. He wrote books on fly fishing, fly tying and leader formulas.

I had the pleasure of attending fly tying classes by Prof Harvey when he was in his 80's and had eye problems and he still tied flies better than most fly tyers. He also spoke at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History Trout Club a few times and always packed the House. He will be missed not only as a person but as an outstanding contributor to the Fly Fishing Community. We will miss you George.

Good Fishing!!

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month, April *Elk Hair Caddis*

Hook: Fine wire, dry fly hook, size 10 to 20

Thread: 6/0 Tan

Body: Super fine dubbing. Color to match the hatch...Olive to Tan.

Rib: Extra Fine gold or copper wire.

Hackle: Brown, matching hackle size to hook.

Wing: Elk hair

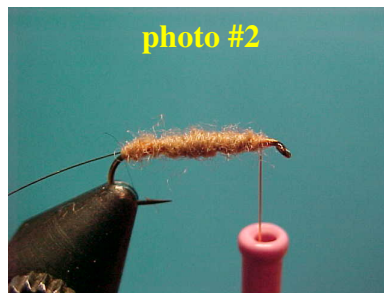
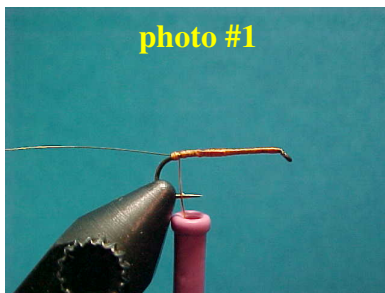


Photo # 1 Start your thread behind the hook eye and wind down the shank toward the bend. Tie in the wire and leave a 4" section beyond the bend.

Photo # 2 Dub the thread and form a tapered body forward. Stop 1/8" short of the eye.

Photo # 3 Prep the hackle feather and tie in the stem at the front of the dubbed body. Wrap two times over itself and then palmer it back about 5 wraps toward the wire at the bend of the hook.



Photo # 4 Hold the hackle tip out over the back of the hook and tie it off with about 3 tight wraps of the wire. Continue to wrap the wire through the hackle to the front "tie in" point. Tie off the wire with the thread.

Photo # 5 Select a pinch of elk hair and remove the under fur. Place it in a hair stacker and stack the tips to make them even. Pinch the elk hair and hold it on top of the hook shank with the tips even with the top of the hook bend. Tie it in at the front of the body keeping it on top of the hook.

Photo # 6 Lift the butts of the elk hair and wrap a head at the hook eye. Whip finish the head.

Photo # 7 Trim the elk hair butts on an angle and apply head cement to the thread windings.

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

Tom Zmina,
Director of Fly Tying, Firelands Fly Fishers

Editor's Notes

March Meeting

A great crowd of 41 showed up for the March meeting. Jerry Darkes treated us to a great presentation with photos, on warm water fly fishing. All who attended picked up some great insight through Jerry's techniques and previous experiences fly fishing around Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Special thanks to Jerry for donating a DVD to the club library.

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 4-6 and Sept 12-23 at Rockwell Springs; May 18-20 at Mohican; July 6-8 and 20-22 in Wellston, MI. For more information go to www.reelandheal.com or e-mail **Judy Walle** (wife of Dick Walle) at judy.walle@reelandheal.com

Women in the Outdoors: Fly Fishing School

North Coast Fly Fishers, along with Women in the Outdoors and Lake Metroparks will be hosting a fly fishing workshop at the Lake Metroparks Outdoor Skills Center in Leroy Twp. The sessions are on May 3rd and advance registration is required. Cost is \$50 pp. Lunch, snacks, equipment and materials are included. For more info and to register, go to www.lakemetroparks.com or call Lindsey Pyle at 440-358-7275.

Original Articles

I am looking for some guest writers to submit stories, ideas, advice, and poetry...for all upcoming newsletters. About 1 page is perfect and I can help with ideas, technology and editing.

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

All General Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the French Creek Nature Center, 4530 Colorado Ave. Sheffield Village. Meetings begin socially at 6:30 PM.

April 9th General Meeting

Jared Bartley, Rocky River Watershed Coordinator, will be our presenter for the evening. Jared will be telling us about the important work of the council and its partners, and educating us on the environmental factors facing our watersheds. We will also have a short presentation from the Ohio Division of Watercraft.

Upcoming General Meetings Scheduled for 2008

April 9th – **Jared Bartley**, Rocky River Watershed Coordinator

May 14th – Outdoor Casting Clinic, Avon

June 11th – Annual Summer Picnic and Raffle, French Creek Picnic Area

June 23rd – **Tim Rajeff**, casting clinic (registration required), evening program TBA, Sunnybrook TC

Sept. 10th – **Glen Blackwood**

Rod Building Class, Tuesdays at Gander Mountain

If you were not able to join us for the fall class, here is your chance to build that fly rod you have been dreaming about. **Steve Smith**, club VP, is organizing another rod building class at Gander Mountain on Tuesday nights in April (1, 8, 15, 22, 29), 6 PM – 9 PM. Fellow “experts” from Firelands will be on hand to assist with the process. Remember, Firelands Fly Fishers recently purchased some new drying racks and a thread wrapping machine that many of can’t wait to see in use.

Fly Tying hits the road!! Wednesdays, 6 PM – 9 PM

Fly Tying Class is hitting the road with better weather and will be on Wednesdays at the Carriage Barn in the Mill Hollow Reservation (Lorain Metroparks) along the Vermilion River. Please come out and bring a friend. In May, we’ll be at Sandy Ridge Reservation in North Ridgeville. Some casting instruction may be offered outside, weather and daylight permitting.

Carriage Barn at Mill Hollow, Vermilion: Weds. in April 16, 23, 30

Nature Center at Sandy Ridge Reservation: Weds. in May 7, 21, 28

Please note that the Second Wednesday of each month is skipped to allow for the Firelands Fly Fishers Meeting.

Firelands Fly Fishers Weekend Outings

The board has proposed a series of fishing days for Firelands Fly Fishers members. Come on out and spend a day fishing with fellow club members – make a friend and learn some of their tricks or find a new spot to fish – and have someone there to hold the camera for that monster buck steely! This is not a tournament or anything formally organized – just a good chance to fish with fellow members and hopefully help out some of those newer to our sport.

Our first scheduled outing to the Rocky River was cancelled due to flooding conditions the day before. The ford road over the east branch was closed that weekend, and we may have had to cancel a rafting expedition if one was scheduled.

We’ll try again on **Sunday, April 13th on the Vermilion River**. We will meet at Bacon Woods, in the north end of the parking lot between 6:45 – 7:00 AM.

May (tentatively Sat. May 17) will likely take us to **Presque Isle, Erie, PA** for some flats style bass fishing.

In the beginning of **June**, we have a proposed trip to **Oil Creek** in Pennsylvania.

Winter and Spring Flows by Tim Schulz

It has been an unusual late winter and spring for fisherman in the area. The weather was not completely that strange for NE Ohio, although the sporadic rainfalls and heavier than usual snowfalls for March have left the rivers high for over a month. Just when they seem to drop down, we get precipitation and cold nights. Today, things are shaping up better as I look at the flow gages and took a look at the Rocky River last night.

“*What is a good flow?*” This question comes up a lot. It is of course a matter of personal preference – some people prefer high water with a little stain, while others like clear and shallow. The trick is to be adaptable to the situation and change your presentation to match the colors and flow levels. You will find fish in different places on different days.

The Rocky River is fishable/wadable at less than 600 cubic feet per second (cfs), but is probably better suited to fly fishing under 350 cfs. The Vermilion is close to those numbers too, but tends to have more siltation and clears up after 4-5 without rain and flows in the 200s. Once these rivers are below 200 cfs, site fishing to steelhead is more probable.

Not all rivers respond the same and therefore have different ideal flows for the angler. Besides temp and stain, some smaller rivers I have fished would be unfishable at 80 cfs, while larger ones are ideal at 500 cfs.

Temperature is a factor too. Luckily for us, we have one of the only gages reporting real time temperature right here on the Rocky River at the confluence of the West and East Branches (Cedar Point). Firelands Fly Fishers contributed money to help get this gage running and online in 2006.

My best advice is to check the flow data on the days you visit a river. You'll start to understand the correlation between your experiences on the water and the data on your computer. This knowledge will make you a better angler.

Use the links below to help you plan ahead. They may save you a trip to a swollen river or frozen one...or remind you to take extra split shot.

Rocky River gage: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?04201500>

Vermilion River gage: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?04199500>

Ohio Gages: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/oh/nwis/rt>

Firelands Fly Fishers Library

Librarian, Mike Janosko

Below is a list of items available for loan through our club library. If there are items you wish to borrow, please e-mail me and I will bring it to you at the next general meeting. Each borrower will be asked to fill out a short form and leave a \$5 deposit. Return the item at the next meeting and get your deposit back. We will discuss this process further at next week's meeting. **Mike Janosko**, mjanosko@aol.com

DVDs

Furled Leaders by Kathy Scotts
Steelhead: Best of the Bear
Steelhead II: Best of the Bear
Tying Traditions: Best of the Bear
Anatomy of a Trout Stream (Scientific Angler)
Fly Fishing Made Easy (Scientific Angler)
Basic Fly Casting (Scientific Angler)
Strategies for Selective Trout (Scientific Angler)

VHS Tapes

Fly Fishing for the Beginner
Fly Fishing
How to Catch Trout
Costa Rica: Rio Colorado Lodge
Tropical Kingdom of Belize

Books

Lake Fly Fishing Strategies by Bob Sheedy
Stillwater Fly Patterns by Bob Sheedy

Wading Tips 101

by Trevor Kugler (from the Connecticut Fly Fishers Association Newsletter)

For anyone who spends any time wading in and across rivers and streams in search of fish, wading tips are never a bad idea. Tips always help, if for no other reason than a quick refresher. What we're all trying to avoid is taking that wet and wild ride down a river, because of a stupid wading mistake. I've had this happen,

and few things ruin a fishing trip like soaking yourself to the bone.

Springtime is upon us and in many parts of the country this means that rivers and streams are running much higher than they normally would. And when the water is running higher and faster than normal, this is the time mistakes are made.

The first tip to remember is if the water looks too high and fast to cross, don't try it! Listen to your instincts. If you feel crossing the river will be a stretch, just sit it out. Better safe than sorry. I'm sure you've heard that piece of advice before. Another great tip in high and fast water (if you feel you must cross) is to use a wading pole. You can buy a wading pole and carry it with you while fishing or you can do what I do and find a nice stick along the bank when I need a wading pole. As long as the stick is sturdy and comes up to your chest, you'll be in good shape. Having a pole to put weight on in high and fast water can literally save you from falling.

Another great wading tip is to always keep your feet in contact with the bottom. This may sound obvious, but it's none the less true. You always want to make a conscious effort to keep your feet in contact with the bottom, especially in high, fast water. The best way to accomplish this is to "slide", rather than step. By sliding your feet, they are always in contact with the bottom. The big problems arise when flowing water gets under your feet. This is obviously when waders get swept off of their feet, and when waders get swept off of their feet - that's when they get wet.

The final wading tip that I have for this article is to keep your eyes on where you want to go, rather than the water. You should be taking your time enough to be able to feel the bottom with your feet, rather than having to look. Keeping your eyes on the place you want to end up eliminates the distortion that a flowing river can cause to persons' eyes. These tips should help you avoid taking that wet and wild ride alluded to earlier. The most important tip is to trust your instincts when it comes to wading across high fast water. If it doesn't feel right, don't try it.

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**

Director of Membership: **Brent Feorene**

Director of Outings: **Carl Kocian**

Director of Raffle: **Brian DePalma**

Director of Web Site: **Rob Mastnardo**

Librarian: **Mike Janosko**

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