

# the indicator

*The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.*

[www.firelandsflyfishers.org](http://www.firelandsflyfishers.org)

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

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April 2010

## **President's Corner**

Spring showed up all of a sudden and the warm temperatures in the 70's are doing wonders for the Steelhead fishing. All the rivers are fishing very well and you should take advantage before that April nemesis, RAIN, arrives and ruins everything. Not to put a jinx on us, but Tim is planning/announcing an outing this weekend. Look for details and updates on e-mail.

We discussed the possibility of the club making monetary donations at the meeting last month. So far the club has 2 possibilities for donations: Reel & Heal and the Children's Fishing Derby in the Cleveland Metroparks on May 15 and 16. It would be great to get more input from the members so the Board is not making all the decisions. If you know of a worthwhile cause that the club could make a donation then let us know at the meeting next week.

The club recently purchased a complete series of DVD's (22) by many well known fly tyers. Glenn Weisner of Glenn River Fly Co. made it possible for the club to purchase the DVD's at cost. Many thanks to Glenn for his generosity. Mike Janasko will have the DVD's at the next meeting. The series covers all areas of fly tying including salt water flies.

May's club meeting is our annual casting night. We will meet at Walker Road Park at the Bay Village/Avon Lake line. If you need a lesson or a casting tune up then this is a must attend event. Jerry Darkes is sponsoring Castapalooza and Riverfest in conjunction with the Lake Metroparks on Saturday, April 24 at the Lake Metroparks Hidden Valley Reservation on the Grand River. Jerry along with Will Turek and Jeff Liskay will be on hand to provide outstanding fly casting instruction in Single hand, Switch and Two Hand Rods. This is the event to attend if you want to learn how to use a Spey Rod. They will also have all the latest and greatest toys to tempt you. They will also have large tents so rain will not be a problem.

The Women in the Outdoors Day is on June 12 at the Isaak Walton League Clubhouse at 21334 Foster Road in Wellington. We can still use more volunteers for this event. It runs from 9 AM until 3 PM. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

Election of officers will be at the June meeting during the picnic. New bodies are always welcome. If you are interested in serving in any office; throw your hat in the ring.

Good Fishing!

Bill Grake, President, Firelands Fly Fishers

## *Fly of the Month, April - Stimulator*

**Hook:** Size 8 light wire streamer hook

**Thread:** Fluorescent Orange 6/0

**Body:** Sparkle Antron dubbing, Fluorescent Orange

**Palmer Hackle:** Brown Furnace saddle hackle

**Thorax:** Angora Goat dubbing - Dark Fluorescent Orange

**Rib:** Fine brass wire

**Wing:** Elk Hair, bleached

**Tail:** Elk Hair, Bleached

**Thorax Hackle:** Saddle Hackle grizzly

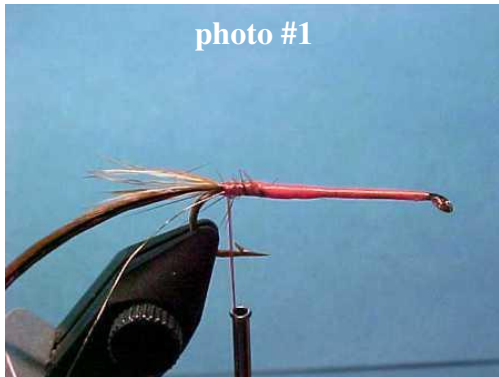


photo #1

**Photo # 1** Create a bed of tying thread on the hook shank ending at the top of the bend. Tie in a tuft of a dozen elk hairs for the tail and trim off the excess. Tie in a furnace saddle hackle feather and the fine brass wire for later.



photo #2

**Photo # 2** Dub in the body of sparkle Antron dubbing to the 3/4 point of the hook shank. Palmer the brown hackle feather to the same 3/4 point. Tie it off and trim off the excess. Counter wrap the fine brass wire to the same 3/4 point of the hook shank. Tie it off and trim off the excess.



photo #3

**Photo # 3** Clean and stack a pinch of about two dozen Elk Hairs and tie them in on the top of the hook shank to measure even with the top of the bend (short of the tail).



photo #4, Completed Fly

**Photo # 4** Tie in the Grizzly hackle feather. Dub in a tapered thorax of the Angora Goat dubbing from the Elk Hair wing to the hook eye. Palmer the Grizzly hackle feather to the hook eye and tie it off. Trim off the excess and form a head. Whip finish the thread. This is the completed fly.

*The Stimulator is an attractor pattern for trout. This pattern can also be used as an indicator fly with a dropper nymph tied in below. I would even be tempted to try it in Smallmouth bass waters since it has the orange and brown coloration of a crayfish.*

*For Fly of the Month recipes and patterns,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.firelandsflyfishers.org](http://www.firelandsflyfishers.org)*

**Tom Zmina, Director of Fly Tying, Firelands Fly Fishers**

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## Future Events

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

### 2010 Events

**Every Wednesday (except 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds/meeting nights) – Fly Tying**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** – Chris Helm, expert fly tier specializing in deer hair

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Casting Night, Walker Road Park, Avon Lake

**June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Club Trout Trip to PA – Little Juniata

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** – Summer Picnic/Raffle, French Creek Pine Tree Picnic Area

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Clam Bake, Beaver Creek Boat Club

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** – Skip Nault, Apple Creek and Clear Fork



### Previous Meeting – March 10<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Wagner

Thanks to Jeff Wagner for his very interesting and educational presentation on building cane rods. We learned some history and the step by step process of his craft.

Jeff builds and sells cane rods from his home. His web site is

<http://www.wagnerrods.com> 42 Firelands members were in attendance.

*J. D. Wagner*



**RODMAKER**

### Next Meeting – April 14<sup>th</sup> - Chris Helm

Toledo resident and legendary deer hair fly tier, Chris Helm, is making his way east for a first visit to the Firelands Fly Fishers. You don't want to miss this! Chris appears at shows around the country year round and typically sells out his tying workshops. Chris has sent some info ahead and will be discussing tying applications, techniques and choosing the correct materials.

### Fly Tying Classes at Gander Mountain – Wednesdays in 2010

**Have you lost a lot of flies steelheading? Getting ready for a summer trip? Perhaps even the club trip to the Little Juniata?** Join us for fly tying at Gander Mountain on Wednesday evenings from 6 – 9 PM. Fly tying is open to everyone, so bring a friend or family member. The club does have some tools and vises available for your use! Director of Fly Tying, Tom Zmina, and many others are on hand to help with tying instruction or simply offer some advice or a new idea.



Gander Mountain is located in Cobblestone Square in Sheffield Village, near Rt. 301/Rt. 254 and I-90. Classes are 6 PM until 9 PM. All sessions will be on Wednesday evenings, with the exception of the second week of each month for the Firelands Fly Fishers general meeting.

**Fly Tying Classes will take place in Gander Mountain's Lodge Room:  
Wednesdays in April 7, 21, 28 and Wednesdays in May 5, 19, 26**

### Volunteers/Outdoorsmen Needed – Trailblazer Adventure Day, May 22

The Boy Scouts of America are holding Trailblazer Adventure Day at the Berea Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 22. Volunteers are needed for the hundreds of young men that would like to learn more about fishing, including fly tying, casting, knot tying, as well as hunting, trapping, archery and shooting. Let Bill Grake know if you can lend a hand.

### Northeast Ohio Fly Castapalooza and Riverfest, April 24

A day-long celebration of fly casting, equipment and fly tying is presented in conjunction with Lake Metroparks Grand River Canoe & Kayak Race at Hidden Valley Reservation (Take Klasen Rd. off of Route 528, 2 miles

south of I90 Exit 212) on Saturday, April 24. The event is free, open to the public and runs from 9 AM – 5 PM

- Try out the latest in fly rods, lines and more!
- Get help & instruction from the experts.
- Learn a variety of techniques and rigging.
- Ongoing Fly Casting Programs: Single, Switch and Two Handed Rods
- Featuring regionally known fly casting instructor Will Turek of Midwest Spey with local pro anglers Jeff Liskay, Jerry Darkes and guests
- Fly tying demos by top local tiers including John Rochus, Patrick Robinson and others
- Displays by local retailers, Equipment from top manufacturers: Scientific Anglers, Scott Fly Rods, Nautilus Reels, Patagonia, Echo, Freedom Hawk Kayaks and more

### **Ohio Council Warm Water Conclave**

The Warm Water Conclave will be a one day event running from 9 AM through 4 PM on Saturday, July 17. It will be held at Penitentiary Glen Nature Center, located at 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road in Kirtland, Ohio

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## ***Editor's Notes***

### **Firelands Fly Fishers Steelhead Outing**

We are going to get together this Saturday to chase Steelhead on the Vermilion River. Meet in the first parking lot (near Pavilion) at Bacon Woods between 7:15 and 7:30 AM. We'll pair up anyone looking for help or tips with a veteran fisherman. We can also discuss rigging and fly selection in the parking lot before heading out. This will be a good area to spread out and provides an opportunity to fish both shallow and deeper water. Pack some snacks or a lunch and we'll make a day of it. Look for updates on e-mail.



### **USGS River Flow Gages online**

A few people were asking at the last meeting, “Where do I find the flow data?” or “How can I read the charts for the rivers?”

Here is the link to the USGS gages for the state of **Ohio**: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/oh/nwis/rt> If you point your mouse at the circle or dot representing each gaging station, you can click for more details. The best way to learn what the numbers represent is to make notes and/or check the flows when you get home from the river. You'll start to get an idea of what high and low numbers are and what range you prefer to fish in. Fly fisherman tend to prefer a lower range than float and spin fisherman.

Each station and river or creek acts differently. Some rise fast and clear fast. Other rise two days after a rain and take five days to clear. There are still many variables between the data and what actually is occurring on the stream or between different rivers. If you use the gaging data when preparing for your outings, it can be a valuable tool. If you have more questions, please ask at a meeting or at our upcoming outings.



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

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

**Chagrin River** - <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?04209000>

**United States** - <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>

## **Government Ban on recreational fishing? – News stories and editorials misrepresented**

At the last meeting, there was some discussion, as well as some on e-mail in the days before and soon after the meeting, regarding “news” stories about possible closures of public fishing areas and bans on recreational and commercial fishing.

A few stories also came to light in the past few weeks stating previous reports were not true or presented incorrectly. Again, I encourage you to utilize your time and your favorite news sources to find up to date information. But I offer this link that may clear some of the air on the original startling story. It is from Snopes.com – they make their business stating what is fact and urban legend and debunking myths that perpetrate the web and all those forwarded e-mails you receive.

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/obama/fishingban.asp>

ESPN Outdoors has issued a statement apologizing for running an article that appeared to be fact, but was actually an opinion piece.

[http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/saltwater/columns/story?columnist=bowman\\_steve&id=4982359](http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/saltwater/columns/story?columnist=bowman_steve&id=4982359)

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## ***Federation News***

### **Fiver Rivers Raffle**

The Federation of Fly Fishers Five Rivers fundraiser raffle has taken place and there were no winners from our club, however Patrick Duffy of North Coast Fly Fishers was a winner. The Five Rivers Sweepstakes winners are: Ed Kehoe, J. Markey, Leon Cuccia, Don Sawyer, Fred Schmitz, James Greene, Patricia Holtan, Mike Sebetich, Patrick Duffy, Bobby White, Michael Burns, Tim Johnson, Glenn Short, Bill Papesh, Western Rocky Mtn. Council, Walter Wilhelm, and Mary Ann von Roth. Glenn Short takes the Grand Prize! Thanks to everyone who participated in the sweepstakes!

### **FFF Annual Conclave**

The location for 2010 will be in West Yellowstone, Montana. The dates are August 23– 28. More information will be posted to the FFF site in the coming months.

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## ***Firelands Fly Fishers Library***

***April update – A complete series of 22 new DVD's added!***

***Mike will only be bringing videos and DVDs to meetings. If you wish to check out printed materials (books or maps), please let him know in advance and he will bring those along for you.***

Mike Janosko is our club librarian and has a very special bag full of the items listed below. Materials can be “checked out” or borrowed for one month. Just sign out the item and leave a \$5 deposit at one of our meetings and return it at the next meeting and get your \$5 back! We are also accepting donations of books or DVD's to the library! To communicate with Mike in advance of a meeting, e-mail him at [mjanosko@aol.com](mailto:mjanosko@aol.com)

### **Books**

John Gierach: *Standing In the Water Waving a Stick*  
*Trout Bum*  
*Dances with Trout*  
*Another Lousy Day In Paradise*  
*Even Brook Trout Get the Blues (2)*  
*Sex Death and Fly-Fishing*

Bob Sheedy: *Top 50 Stillwater Patterns*

### **VHS TAPES**

Spun Hair Flies (Al Beatty)  
Rotary Tying Techniques (Al Beatty)  
Fly Tying Techniques (Al Beatty)  
How to Catch Trout (Warburton/Gerlach)  
Successful Fly Fishing Strategies Vol 1 (Lafontaine/Sharon)  
Successful Fly Fishing Strategies Vol 2 (Lafontaine/Sharon)  
Fly Fishing for the Beginner  
Rio Colorado Lodge, Costa Rica  
Tropical Kingdom of Belize (National Geographic)

*Lake Fishing Strategies*

John Mordock: *Northeast Trout Salmon and Steelhead Streams*

Ernest Hemingway: *The Old Man And The Sea* (book on tape)

Misc: 100 Pennsylvania Trout Streams and How to Fish Them  
County Topo Maps for Pennsylvania  
List of Rustic and Modern Cabins in PA, locations, contacts and map

## **DVDs**

Best of the Bear: Tying Tradition	Terrestrials - The Other Hatch (Weisner/Samson)
Best of the Bear: Steelhead Patterns II	Wet Fly Water Guides: Wet Fly Fishing
Guide Patterns for Smallmouth (Jerry Darkes)	Wet Fly Water Guides: Wet Fly Tying
Scientific Anglers Series: Fly Fishing Made Easy	Trout Bum Diaries (Patagonia)
Scientific Anglers Series: Strategies for Selective Trout	Kinzua Fly Fishing School - Applied Entomology
Scientific Anglers Series: Advanced Fly Casting	Fly Tying – Vol 1 (Paul Jorgensen)
Scientific Anglers Series: Anatomy of a Trout Stream	My Favorite Fishing Flies (Paul Jorgensen)
Tying the Woolhead Sculpin (Royce Dam)	Simple Furled Leaders (Kathy Scott)
Tying Nymphs and Wet Flies (Royce Dam)	The Art of Fly Tying (Fly Fisherman Magazine) CD-ROM
Tying Dry Flies (Royce Dam)	Fly Casting Faults & Fixes (Mel Krieger)
The Essence of Fly Casting (Mel Krieger)	Introduction to Spey Casting (John Hazel)

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## ***Firelands Fly Fishers Board of Directors***

President: <b>Bill Grake</b>	<a href="mailto:bahiapark@yahoo.com">bahiapark@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President: <b>Steve Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:pnvinc@windstream.net">pnvinc@windstream.net</a>
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Director of Web Site: <b>Rob Mastnardo</b>	<a href="mailto:r.mastnardo@firelandsflyfishers.org">r.mastnardo@firelandsflyfishers.org</a>
Librarian: <b>Mike Janosko</b>	<a href="mailto:mjanosko@aol.com">mjanosko@aol.com</a>

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