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*The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.*

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

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

Volume 5 Issue 8

December 2008

## *President's Corner*

'Tis the season of Santa and Steelhead Fishing. How quickly the seasons come and go; it seems like only yesterday we were tying on Mayflies to match the hatch and now we are Steelhead fishing again. All the good fishing is in the eastern rivers like the Ashtabula and Conneaut Creek. The lower price of gas takes some of the financial bite out of a trip since you no longer have to get a mortgage for a tank full of gas. Again, how quickly everything changes.

The club shirts are finished and I have them in hand. If you want your shirt before the meeting on Dec. 10 give a call or an email and we can arrange for you to pick up your shirt. The cost of the shirts are \$30.

The November meeting featured **Dale Kotowski**, the Fly Guy of Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters in Ohiopyle, Pa. Dale gave a season by season reading of the Youghiogheny River. It was an outstanding presentation about the river and its hatches. The Yough will be our destination for our June 2009 fly fishing trip. I'm shooting for the first Monday through Wednesday of June (June 1-3). The Lodge at Wilderness Voyageurs rents for \$600/day and can hold 15; which is \$40/pp/day. They do an outstanding float trip for \$240 for two anglers. In addition to the Yough there are a few smaller streams to fish. I need to get an idea of how many are interested in going on the trip to see if it is economically feasible. If it's a go then I will have to put a deposit with the reservation and I will need some cash from everyone.

**Tidbits:** Felt sole wading boots are going to be a thing of the past. The felt traps and carries critters that can be harmful to fish and the environment. A few states and countries are very seriously considering a ban on felt soled boots. Simms already has a soft rubber sole wading boot that works as good as felt and doesn't accumulate snow.

Switzerland has outlawed C&R (catch and release) fishing. You MUST humanely and quickly KILL all fish landed. I don't understand this maneuver. Anglers must pass a course on humane methods of catching and dispatching fish before they can get a fishing license.

Firelands Fly Fishers club dues for 2009 will be due. Try the 3 year membership and save a few dollars.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.

Bill Grake, President, Firelands Fly Fishers

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## ***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.**

### **November General Meeting**

Dale Kotowski of Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters gave a fantastic presentation of his river – the Youghiogheny in southwest PA – with some great photos to boot. He offered advice and knowledge from years of experience on the changing seasons as well as the transformations the river has over its length. This will be our destination for our annual club trip to PA. <http://www.wilderness-voyageurs.com/flyfish.htm>



### **December 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party and Swap Shop at French Creek**

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share at this pot luck. The membership has been divided into three groups by last name initial. If your last name begins with...

**A – H = please bring an appetizer, hors d'oeuvres, finger food or similar to share**

**J – P = please bring a salad or similar type dish to share**

**R – Z = please bring a dessert to share**

The club will provide the main course, refreshments and tableware. Spouses and guests are welcomed.

***Please RSVP to Carl Kocian by Monday, Dec. 8 at his e-mail [flyguy@centurytel.net](mailto:flyguy@centurytel.net)***

We will also be holding a Swap Shop during the party. Members are welcome to buy, sell and trade your fishing gear, books, tying material, clothes, etc...Tables will be available for you to display your items.

### **2009 Monthly Meeting Schedule**

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – Eric Lindstrom from Chagrin River Outfitters

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – an evening with the Ohio Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> – Saltwater Fly Fishing

Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> – TBA

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Casting Night

June 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual Summer Picnic and Raffle

### **TGIF - Fly Tying Fridays!**

Fly tying is open to everyone, so bring a friend or family member. The club does have some tools and vices available for your use and there are plenty of people available for instructions, advice or just to talk about fishing! 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**

**Lodge Room at Gander Mountain: Fridays in December 5, 12, 19**

**Lodge Room at Gander Mountain: Thursdays in January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26**

### **Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo will be on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland. Make sure to attend the premier fly fishing event in NE Ohio. Many vendors, parks, clubs and exhibitors are on hand for you to learn more or buy more! <http://www.expo2009.ncff.net/>

## **GLC Fly Tying Expo**

The Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will host the 9th Annual Fly Tying Exposition at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, Michigan on Saturday, December 6, 2008. The expo will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <http://www.ffglc.org/index.html>

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## ***Federation of Fly Fishers On-line Auction at eBay***

The Federation will be running an on-line eBay auction from December 1, 2008 thru early 2009. Here is an opportunity for all of us to make some money for our clubs, councils and for the national office. We have entered into an arrangement with eBay to host an online auction site for the Federation. eBay will be handling most of the necessary details and doing so at a special reduced rate. The national office will split net proceeds 50/50 with the club or council that generates the auction item. Please consider that we have 30,000 potential bidders in our clubs in addition to the eBay loyal followers.

What we need from all of you are the auction items. Think in terms of trips, art, condo or vacation home use, tackle and fishing related "stuff". We will endeavor to combine items into packages with a value of at least \$500.00. For example we already have guided trips with a casting lesson the day before, in my case two days drift boat fishing combined with two nights of donated motel rooms. Items will be offered regionally to best serve each Council and those looking for specific destination packages.

All items are to be communicated through the National office. Don't forget to remind potential donors that their gifts are tax deductible. This should be a terrific short and long term fund raising program. Have questions? Contact Van at [van@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:van@fedflyfishers.org) or Josset at [josset@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:josset@fedflyfishers.org)

Auctions listings will be updated on Mondays. To view items for bidding – follow these links below:  
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4973>  
<http://members.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewUserPage&userid=fedflyfisher>

**About The Federation of Fly Fishers** - [The Federation of Fly Fishers](http://www.fedflyfishers.org) is a 43-year-old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through conservation, restoration and education. The goal is to support fisheries conservation and educational programs for all fish and all waters. Based in Livingston, Montana, the FFF and its councils is the only organized advocate for fly fishers on a national and regional level. The organization has individual members as well as 300 local fly fishing clubs across the U.S. For further information, visit [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org).

In the Bylaws, the purposes of the Federation are listed as follows:

- a.** Cultivate and advance the art, science and sport of fly fishing as the most sporting and enjoyable method of angling and the way of fishing most consistent with the preservation and use of game fish resources;
  - b.** Be the voice for organized fly fishing;
  - c.** Promote conservation of recreational resources;
  - d.** Facilitate and improve the knowledge of fly fishing;
  - e.** Elevate the standard of integrity, honor, and courtesy of anglers;
  - f.** Cherish the spirit of fellowship among anglers everywhere;
  - g.** Establish and maintain liaison with other organizations of anglers and conservationists and government agencies concerned with the sport of angling; and
  - h.** Keep its members informed of developments of interest to the membership.
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## *Fly of the Month, December - Black Stonefly Nymph*

**Hook:** Wet Nymph fly hook, similar to Mustad #9671. Size 8 to 14.

**Thread:** Black 6/0 for larger size hooks or 8/0 for smaller size hooks.

**Bead:** Black 1/8" Cyclops bead for size 10 hook.

**Body:** Black, Fine dubbing toward the tail and coarse dubbing for the thorax.

**Tail:** Black Goose Biots.

**Wire:** Fine wire in red or gold.

**Shell:** Black Swiss Straw.

**Photo # 1** Insert the bead onto the hook. Start the thread on the hook and bring it back to the tail. Form a small ball of dubbing to be able to spread the tail biots.

**Photo # 2** Tie in two biots for the tail allowing them to form a V - tail. Tie in the wire ribbing material for later.

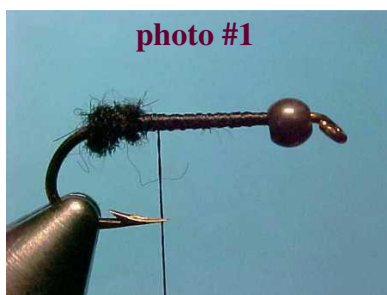
**Photo # 3** Dub in a black body to just past the midpoint of the hook shank. Taper it smaller at the tail, to larger at the midpoint of the hook. Spiral wrap the wire over the dubbing to the position just past the midpoint of the hook shank.

**Photo # 4** Tie in the swiss straw flat on the top of the hook to form a dorsal shell.

**Photo # 5** Dub in a black thorax with coarse dubbing material.

**Photo # 6** Flop the swiss straw over the top of the dubbed thorax to form the wing shell casing. Form a head and whip finish the thread. Trim off the thread.

**Photo # 7** Use a bodkin needle or velcro to pick out the fibers of the thorax to form legs and gills. This is the completed fly.



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

## ***Fishing “Green”***

### ***Environmental and sustainable fly fishing web links***

Never has so much information and people energy been put into the green or environmental movement as now. This momentum is bringing stewardship of our resources into the forefront of the business world, joining non-profits such as the Federation of Fly Fishers and other conservation groups. Below are some links to some unique green fishing sites.

<http://www.recycledfish.org/home/> Recycled Fish is a non-profit organization promoting Catch and Release fishing, as well as the stewardship and sustainability of our waters. They have many partnerships and there are good articles on here on various types of fishing.

[http://www.simmsfishing.com/site/simms\\_news.html](http://www.simmsfishing.com/site/simms_news.html) Link to article on Simms leading the industry in the movement to cease the use of felt on wading boots.

<http://www.ecologicdesigns.com> & <http://www.greengurugear.com> Ecologic Designs is committed to reducing the amount of discard that is sent to landfills every day. They intercept and repurpose a variety of difficult to recycle materials into new high quality products. Ecologic Designs reclaim and incorporate vinyl billboards and banners, tractor and bicycle inner tubes, climbing ropes, and wetsuit neoprene. Discard is turned into new raw materials, creating a completely sustainable product and reducing local landfill waste. The new outdoor products are sold under the brand – Green Guru.

<http://www.recycledwaders.com> Do you still have old waders lying around the basement or garage? Never fixed that leak, huh? Wondering what to do with them? You can keep them out of a landfill and get yourself something new as well. Send them to recycled waders and you can have them made into a wallet, nook sack, hip sack or messenger bag.

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net> This site is an excellent resource for learning more about aquatic hitchhikers and invasive species, and what you can do to help prevent their spread.

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

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

President: **Bill Grake**

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Vice President: **Steve Smith**

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