

the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

Volume 4 Issue 8

December 2007

President's Corner

“Where’s Fly Fishing Heading?” I attended a meeting of OCBS (Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders) on Thursday and enjoyed a great presentation on fly lines by Carl Richards of Scientific Anglers. Carl is the GURU of fly lines – he knows more about fly lines and their construction than any other human being.

He explained how a fly line is constructed and the materials involved in line construction. Scientific Anglers currently produces 1700 different fly lines. Carl stated that the fly fishing industry is a very small business that caters to a small niche segment of the fishing industry in general. The high cost of fly fishing equipment is in part due to the small market of the products. The price of research and production is paid by a small group. The previously mentioned 1700 different fly lines produced are in batches of 50 to a 100 of one particular fly line.

So where is all this leading to???? He introduced a new fly line by SA; the Sharkskin. Ever pet a shark?? There skin is very rough almost like 60 grit sandpaper; the Sharkskin line is likewise rough. The rough surface helps repel water and dirt, is easier to pick up and roll cast and is the next greatest generation of fly lines. Casting tests gave about 7 % greater distance when compared to a smooth fly line. The only drawback is the cost of the line is \$100, which is almost twice the price of the current generation fly lines. The good part is Carl Richards passed out a few samples of the line and I was fortunate enough to receive one. When I figure out the weight of the line then I will be able to test it.

A few thoughts came to me; is the average angler going to be able to reap the benefits of the 7% increase in distance? The test casts were at 80 to 90 feet and secondly is this worth the cost? Along the same line; Simms has just come out with a \$700 pair of waders. The Norman Rockwell image of a barefoot kid with a fly rod and 6 flies is long gone. Business is the driving force and technology is turning fly fishing into Rocket Science. The \$100 fly line is bad but \$700 for waders is stretching it. Enough with the devil’s advocate role. Oh the price of having fun!

Don’t forget the Christmas dinner on Dec. 12. Read on for more information below.

The Federation of Fly Fishers is contemplating moving the headquarters from Livingston, MT to Loveland, CO. If you have ever been to Livingston you know how far off the beaten path it is and how difficult it is to fly there at a reasonable price. The nearest airport is Bozeman and it is a very small market airport. The move to Loveland, which is near Denver, will make the FFF very accessible to a larger number of individuals and business. This should help the FFF grow and be more recognizable.

Current fishing trips are in the planning: Presque Isle in May for the Bass fishing, Oil Creek in May/June- this could be a nice camping trip. July/August will be the Youghiogheny River at Ohiopyle in PA. If anyone has any other suggestions please let me know.

Good Fishing and have a great Holiday and a Happy New Year!

Bill Grake

President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Editor's Notes

New Director of Outings

We welcome **Carl Kocian** to the Firelands Fly Fishers Board! Carl accepted a nomination and was voted at November's Board Meeting to the opening for Director of Outings. Carl will assist in the planning and organizing of the Christmas Party, Summer Picnic, Clam Bake, various fishing trips and refreshments for general meetings when needed.

November Wrap

November's meeting was attended by 34 men, including 7 guests. At the meeting, **Mike Laskowski** of Oil Creek Outfitters (www.oilcreekoutfitters.com) in Titusville, PA presented some amazing photos and gave all of us a lesson in entomology and a better understanding of what is happening beneath the surface.

Steve Vorkapich spoke on strike indicators and his experience (or frustration, like many of us) with "less than perfect" designs. This led him to start his own company, Float Master Strike Indicators, featuring multiple sizes and colors of easy to use floats or indicators. Steve is joining Firelands as a new member this month and we wish him well with his endeavors! For more, visit www.floatmasterco.net

Adobe Reader Update Available

Adobe Reader is the best way to view *the indicator* each month – whether you read it from e-mail or on our web site. A free update for Adobe 8.1 is at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

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

Until 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 for new FFF members and not for FFF 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. 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

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

Fly Tying continues in 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: 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,



December 12th – 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. 10 at his e-mail 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.

Upcoming General Meetings Scheduled for 2008

January 9th – Mike Durkalec, Ohio Brook Trout Project

February 13th – Steelhead Q & A Roundtable (member driven forum)

March 12th – Jerry Darkes, Warm water fly fishing

April 9th – Jared Bartley, Rocky River Watershed Coordinator

May 14th – Outdoor Casting Clinic

June 11th – Annual Summer Picnic and Raffle

North Coast Fly Tying Expo

This annual event, hosted by North Coast Fly Fishers, is scheduled for Saturday, January 5, 2008 at Cuyahoga Community College East Campus; 4250 Richmond Road in Highland Hills. Exit I-271 at Harvard Road, go west to Richmond Road, left/south on Richmond and turn right into the campus. Expo is inside the building straight ahead of the driveway. Doors open at 8:30 and close at 4 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 children 12-17 and free under 12. For details please visit www.expo2008.ncff.net

Expo will have fly tiers, casting instruction for beginners, lectures on Steelhead fishing and Rod Building, manufacturer's reps, retail stores, fishing clubs, raffles and drawings.

FFF Conclave

Mark your calendar for the 43rd Annual FFF International Fly Fishing Show/Conclave. The dates are set for July 22 – 26, 2008 in Whitefish, MT. Whitefish is a small town on the shore of Whitefish Lake near Glacier National Park and International Airport. <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4451>

Fly of the Month, December – Sloboda Steelhead Slammer

Hook: Eagle Claw "L-042-G" size 6 to 14

Thread: white or clear fine tying thread

Body: Metallic braid thread in hot colors

Thorax: Fine to medium ice chenille or any reflective tinsel chenille in a hot color

Shroud: "Pearl Lite-brite" or "Pearl Ice Dubbing" as a hackle



Photo # 1 Wind on the thread base to half way down the bend.

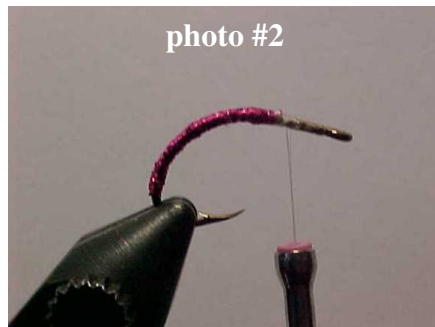


Photo # 2 Tie in the metallic braid thread and bring your tying thread to 1/4" from the eye. Wind the metallic thread, edge to edge, along the shank to the 1/4" spot from the eye. This will form a solid color hook shank.



Photo # 3 Tie in the brightly colored ice chenille and make a few wraps toward the eye. Do not crowd the eye. Leave room for the last stage of tying in the shroud.



Photo # 4 Double over a bundle of "Ice Dubbing" and tie it in near the eye. Allow it to fan around the hook shank as you lock it in. Fold over the excess toward the bend to create a complete shroud around the hook. Whip finish a head.

Photo # 5 Trim the excess shroud to be about even with the bend of the hook. Brush backward on the trimmed Ice Dubbing fibers to rough up the completed fly.

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 Rods

Last month we had some tips on fly line care, courtesy of MidCurrent. This month we have similar tips and advice for your fly rods. www.midcurrent.com

Preventing Corrosion To prevent corrosion, be sure your rods and reels are dry before putting them back in their cases or sleeves. Rinse saltwater rods after every use. Regular Pledge® furniture polish makes a great temporary cleaner and protectant for fly rods.

How Fly Rods Break The things that most often cause fly-rod breakage: high-sticking a fish (lifting the rod vertically so that most of the bend is in the tip), car doors, and ceiling fans.

Over lining Rods You can make a rod's action "slower" by over lining the rod with a fly line rated one size higher. Over lining rods often helps beginners get a better feel for when a rod loads and can also help experienced anglers throw oversized flies.

Stringing Fly Rods Don't try to string your fly rod by putting the end of your leader through the rod guides. Rather, double your fly line and use the doubled end. It's much easier and the line won't slide back through the guides if it slips out of your hands.

Dirty Cork Grips You can easily clean and brighten the cork grips of fly rods with dampened fine-textured, soaped steel wool pads. Mr. Clean Magic Eraser™ also works very well and with less mess.

Fly Rod Modulus "Modulus" refers to the resistance to bending in a fly rod's materials. But there is no one-size-fits-all rod modulus. "Fast," or high-modulus, rods are often favored in saltwater fishing because they enable the angler to deliver the fly more quickly. However, slower rods often help anglers make more delicate presentations. To complicate matters further, rod manufacturers often build rods with "faster" butts and "slower" tips. Always test-cast a rod before deciding whether it suits your casting style and techniques.

Stuck Ferrules Rod sections stuck together? Use one of these two methods to get them unstuck. If you are alone, place the rod behind your knees and grasp the rod sections on either side; slowly separate your knees to add additional force as you pull the sections apart. With a partner, stand facing one another, grab the opposite sections of the rod and pull apart. If neither of those techniques work, sometimes soaking a stuck ferrule in ice water or a cold stream for several minutes will do the trick.

Flying with Fly Rods While most airlines require you to check gear that might be considered dangerous, including any fluids in containers over 3 oz., the U.S. Transportation Security Administration says on its Web site that "Expensive reels or fragile tackle such as fly's [sic] should be packed in your carry-on baggage." Most rods can be safely carried on, but always check with your individual airline. Rules change.

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**

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

flyguy@centurytel.net

briandepalma@adelphia.net

r.mastnardo@firelandsflyfishers.org
