

# 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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February 2010

## ***President's Corner***

Groundhog Day is quickly approaching and that means warmer weather for fly fishing. You will know whether or not Punxatawney Phil did or did not see his shadow. Either way the prime time for Steelhead fishing and spring is about 6 weeks away.

The club speaker at the February meeting will whet your appetite for fly fishing. Captain Brian Meszaros of Great Lakes Flyfishing is a guide on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. The fly fishing for bass, muskie and anything else in Lake St. Clair and the tributaries is outstanding. He will give a presentation that will result in instant Spring Fever (fly fishing fever).

The trip to the Little Juanita in June has about 3 openings. The lodge is a bargain at \$50/night and we are planning to provide breakfast and lunch and libations again. Let me know if you are interested in going to the Little J. The fly fishing is great at this time of the year.

There always seems to be some foreign critter or company that is doing something detrimental to fishing. The threat of Asian Carp in the Great lakes is a serious problem that has to be dealt with. This Trout Unlimited website provides good information about the problem. [www.tu-clev.org/conservation\\_000.php](http://www.tu-clev.org/conservation_000.php) Another problem coming to light is Hydraulic Fracturing in the process of extracting Natural Gas from the ground. This creates pollution in the form of salt and contaminated water which has resulted in Trout kills in Pennsylvania. The above TU website presents a newscast about the effects of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water. This is another problem we will have to deal with.

The US Sportsmen's Alliance is presenting an outdoor workshop for the Boy Scouts on May 22 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea. They need 6 volunteers to help with the fly fishing portion of the program. If you are interested in helping, contact me and I will forward the information to you.

The club has an extensive library of fly fishing and tying information. Check the library listing (page 6) or with club librarian, Mike Janosko, to see what is available. This is an easy way to improve your fly fishing skills at no cost. The fly tying and rod building sessions at Gander Mountain have been very well attended. Drop in any Wednesday and join in the camaraderie.

Bill Grake,  
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

## *Fly of the Month, February*

**Hook:** Mustad 3906B or 3399 size 12 or 14

**Weight:** .010 lead wire (optional)

**Thread:** Tan 8/0

**Tails:** Wood Duck Flank

**Rib:** Fine Copper Wire

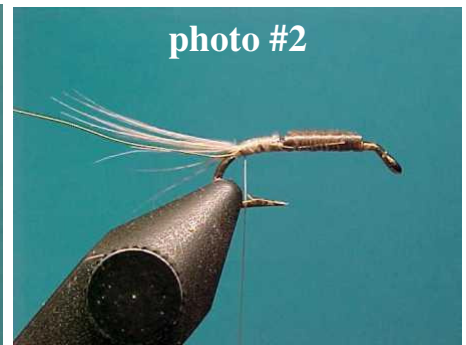
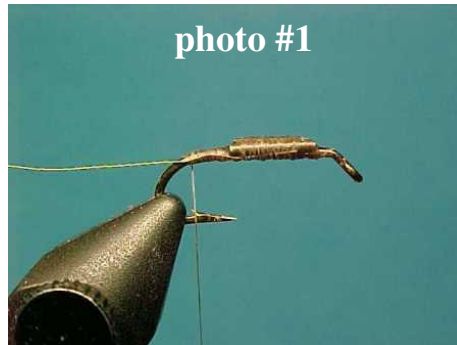
**Abdomen:** Golden Pheasant Tail Quill

**Wing Case:** Black Dyed Quill ( Goose or Turkey)

**Thorax:** Natural Hare's Mask

**Legs:** Wood Duck Flank

### *Dark Quill Sulphur Nymph*



**Photo # 1** Tie in a solid bed of thread on the hook shank. Tie in two or three thicknesses of the lead wire along the top of the hook shank if you desire a weighted nymph. Tie in the Copper Wire and let it hang off the tail for later.

**Photo # 2** Tie in about 12 barbs of the Wood Duck Flank as a tail.

**Photo # 3** Tie in the Golden Pheasant Tail Quill and bring the thread to a point just forward of the 1/2 way point of the hook shank. Spiral wrap the Pheasant Tail Quill forward (edge to edge) to the same location as the thread and tie it off. Trim off the excess. Spiral wrap the Copper Wire forward (evenly spaced with a gap between each rib) to the same location as the thread and tie it off. Trim off any excess.

**Photo # 4** Tie in the Black Dyed Quill on the top of the back at a point just forward of the 1/2 way point of the hook shank. Dub in a thorax using the Natural Hare's Mask. Tie in the legs using about a dozen barbs of the Wood Duck Flank feather for each side.

**Photo # 5** Flop the Dyed Quill over the top of the dubbed thorax as a wing casing and tie it in at the head. Trim off the excess. Form a head and whip finish. Trim off the excess thread and apply head cement. This is your 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**

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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  
February 10<sup>th</sup> – Brian Meszaros, Fly Fishing Lakes St. Clair and Erie  
March 10<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Wagner, Rod Selection, Construction and Building  
April 14<sup>th</sup> – Chris Helm, expert fly tier specializing in deer hair  
May 12<sup>th</sup> – Casting Night, location TBA  
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



### **Previous Meeting - January 13<sup>th</sup> – Pike on the Fly**

Big thanks to George Vosmik for sharing his big fish photos from the Pike on the Fly presentation in January. George shared some photos, videos and fly tying tips from and for a trip to Reindeer Lake and similar locations. 43 members “oohhed and aahhed” at the fish pics and giant flies.

### **Next Meeting – February 10<sup>th</sup> – Brian Meszaros**

Lake St. Clair and western Lake Erie guide, Capt. Brian Meszaros will be our guest speaker. Brian will also have some amazing photos or video to get you thinking about Spring. Brian guides for bass and muskie while fly fishing from a boat. His guide service is Great Lakes Flyfishing.

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

**Get ready for steelhead season!! You know you need more flies...and you are going to lose a bunch in March and April...so come on out to Wednesday fly tying.** 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 fly 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 February 3, 17, 24**

**Wednesdays in March 3, 17, 24, 31**

### **Rod Building Classes (continue at Fly tying night)**

Steve Smith has coordinated our Rod Building course in conjunction with Fly Tying on Wednesday nights at Gander Mountain. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Steve or come to the sessions. Rod building which began January 20, continues through February 24, also from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

### **Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expos**

Buckeye United Fly Fishers Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show will be this Saturday, February 6 in Fairfield, OH. <http://buckeyeflyfishers.com/FlyFishingShow/2010show.htm>

Penn’s Woods West Trout Unlimited holds their annual Cabin Fever Show in Cranberry, PA on March 6.

The 2010 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo (Michigan Fly Fishers) will be March 13 and 14 in Warren, MI. <http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com/index.php> Presented annually by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club (MFFC), the Expo features a wide array of tackle dealers, rod builders, guides, fly tiers, artists, authors and conservation organizations, all specializing in one or more of the many facets of fly fishing. It features dozens of presentations about techniques, fly tying, equipment, and fly fishing destinations.

Expo hours are 9 -6 on Saturday, March 13, and 10 - 4 on Sunday, March 14. Admission is \$10 for adults. 16 and under are admitted free. Two-day passes can be purchased for \$15. Parking is free.

The Cleveland Outdoor Adventure Show will be held at the I-X Center from March 18 -21.

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## ***FFF News and Notes***

### **FFF Member e-newsletter**

If your not getting our monthly FFF Member e-newsletter and would like to. It's easy to sign up. Go to <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001oqwWjY62mfmlHsoPjzZRg%3D%3D> and just enter the e-mail address you would like it to be sent to.

### **FFF National Raffle – Five Rivers Sweepstakes**

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been EXTENDED! Please support the FFF's ongoing efforts in conservation and education by purchasing a ticket. Make a \$20 donation to the FFF and you'll be eligible to win a trip to Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT AND a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile!

**The drawing will be held on March 15, tickets must be submitted by Feb. 28.** Each FFF council will draw a winner from their region. Two "second chance" winners will be drawn from all tickets. The grand prize is a trip of a lifetime to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile. All prizes include a travel stipend. To purchase tickets or for more information: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5030>

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## ***Membership***

### **Welcome New Members**

**The following men have joined Firelands Fly Fishers since September. We are glad you have joined us! Please welcome to the club: Richard Beisel, Richard Fogel, Thomas Madigan, Mike Manocchio, Michael Schodowsky, and Ed Solensky.**

### **Membership Updates – 35 of 97 on roster still need to renew for 2010**

All members are reminded to pay their dues for 2010 as soon as possible. We will be accepting payments and updating address/e-mail records at the February meeting. Dues for Firelands Fly Fishers are \$10 for one year and \$25 for three years.

Firelands Fly Fishers is a 100% Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers and all of our members are required to hold membership in the FFF. Steve Bell, Director of Membership can help you determine your membership date with the FFF. Though, you should have a membership card and receive mail/e-mail from them directly. The FFF has one year, three year, lifetime as well as family, youth or senior (65+) memberships available. Go to <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/> and click on the Membership tab.

Members that are past due on 2009 payment will be contacted, but can still make payment at the upcoming meeting. Remember to bring cash or checks to French Creek. Also please let us know if your home or e-mail contact information has changed, or if you know longer wish to be a part of Firelands Fly Fishers. ***Those that fail to renew will be removed from our electronic notifications. 35 members still need to renew!***

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## **Editor's Notes**

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

We are getting closer to that wondrous time for year here in Steelhead Alley and NO, I still will not post a date for a future outing here!! *The indicator* newsletter is mightier than Punxsutawney Phil and the Farmers Almanac. Epic floods and ice dams await those that dare to print an outing date in these pages!! Doing so in the past has brought bad karma to Steelhead Alley and sent people living in low lying areas into a panic! However, it does seem necessary to discuss the possibility of having a club outing or two in March and April. Most likely we will have an all day outing on the Vermilion or Rocky Rivers...so stay tuned; we may announce such an outing with only a few days notice. There will be good fishing ahead and good times and learning opportunities await the experienced and beginner angler.

### **Ohio DOW Castalia Hatchery Beginner and Youth Lottery**

The annual lottery for a chance to fish at the Castalia Steelhead hatchery has closed, but two other opportunities exist for beginners and youth (which rules out most of us, but please share with friends and family). 135 slots are available for the beginners' clinic to be held Fridays April 30 – June 4. Deadline to submit is April 2. <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/News/NewsReleaseArchives/tabid/19075/EntryID/1518/Default.aspx> 30 spots for youth under age 16 are available for a June 18<sup>th</sup> clinic at Castalia. Deadline to submit for the Youth Clinic is May 14<sup>th</sup>. Submissions are required to be by postcard. More details are at the ODNR web site. <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/News/NewsReleaseArchives/tabid/19075/EntryID/1519/Default.aspx>

### **Fishing Licenses – Time to Renew**

A new 2010 Ohio license is required beginning March 1 and sales begin February 15. To search for a license vendor or to purchase online, visit: <http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/dow/regulations/vendor.aspx>

### **Legendary Fly Tying Seminars to be held at Cabela's**

The Cabela's in Dundee, MI is hosting a series of fly tying seminars to be held Saturdays through February. Times are 10:00 – 4:00 and the schedule (with some familiar and great names in tying and fishing) is below.

- Feb 6 Tim Thomas - Spinning deer hair for bass and pike.
- Feb 13 Kevin Feenstra – Steelhead flies.
- Feb 20 Jeff "Bear" Andrews - Steelhead and trout flies.
- Feb 27 Leo Wright - Smallmouth flies.

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## **Fishing Web Videos**

You are already in front of your computer, it is cold, possibly snowing and you are thinking about fishing – right?! Check out these videos from the Drake Magazine 2009 Video Awards, including the video of the year 'Once in a Blue Moon.' The clips are under 5 minutes each. <http://www.drakemag.com/videos/2009-films>

If you liked that, then you'll want to know about the Fly Fishing Film Tour (A Drake Magazine production) that is making the rounds again. This is the fourth year for the tour and films are being presented at Cedar-Lee on March 30 and in Toledo on March 5. <http://www.flyfishingfilmtour.com/Schedule/>

If you need more, you could spend the whole week watching clips on You Tube, [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Just search a style of fishing or a certain place and there will be plenty of results. Some are good, some are bad of course. I just watched a video of guy snorkeling with a fly rod and site casting to tarpon – then hand lining it!!

For spectacular video and photography – as always, I recommend <http://catchmagazine.net> They call themselves the official journal of fly fishing photography and film and you'll see why. Sign up to receive the monthly e-magazine.

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## Firelands Fly Fishers Library

*February update – 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.*

A reminder to all members and news to many new members – we have a library! Mike Janosko is our club librarian and has a very special bag (like Santa for Fly Fishermen) 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! If you would like 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*  
*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

### 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)

### 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)	

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## Firelands Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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Vice President: **Steve Smith**

Secretary: **Joe Sloboda**

Treasurer: **Bill Graw**

Director of Communications: **Tim Schulz**

Director of Fly Tying: **Tom Zmina**

Director of Membership: **Steve Bell**

Director of Outings: **Carl Kocian**

Director of Web Site: **Rob Mastnardo**

Librarian: **Mike Janosko**

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