



the indicator

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

Happy New Year to all!

To all the Officers, Board Members and members of Firelands Fly Fishers - all your time and efforts through out the past year has been greatly appreciated and I wish the year to be happy and prosperous to all and that you catch many fish.

2007 was a good year for the club. We had a full year of fly tying and rod building classes with many members involved. The educational effort of the club was outstanding. We added 8 members in December in part due to the membership promotion by the national FFF and the club is off to a good start for 2008.

We have a good line up of speakers and fishing trips planned for 2008 and we will continue the fly tying and rod building classes. The club has an opportunity to exhibit fly fishing gear and give classes at the Rocky River Library during the summer. This is a good venue to promote both fly fishing and the club. The types of classes and the dates are open to what and when we want to do. The same members continue to give their time and effort at these classes and we need some fresh blood so the same members are not the only ones giving presentations. If any member wants to give a presentation on fly fishing (either a demonstration or a class) please contact me

The club also is giving fly tying and fly casting demonstrations at Mill Hollow in the Lorain County Metro Parks on April 19. Again, any new volunteers willing to give a few hours of their time on this Saturday morning will be appreciated. Both of these events are good opportunities to introduce fly fishing and fly tying, recruit new members and have a good time.

The North Coast Fly Tying Expo is this Saturday (January 5) - See you there!

Good Fishing and Happy New Year!

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

EDITOR'S NOTES

New Members

We keep growing!! Please welcome a group of new members to the Firelands Fly Fishers. The following men joined in November or December: **Jose Mendiola** of Amherst, **Sean Flanigan** of Brunswick, **Ron Camp** of Lorain, **Monte Casey** of Westlake, **Tim Shreve** of Avon Lake, **Joshua Stebal** of Garfield Hts., **Steve Vorkapich** of Brunswick and **Mike Durkalec** of Wakeman.



45 Members and guests attended our Christmas Party Pot Luck. As is the norm for Firelands events, there was plenty of food and we all ate too much while enjoying the conversation at our tables. Thanks to all who contributed food and special thanks to the men that set up and cleaned up.

Correction

In the Presidents Corner last month, Bill referred to a speaker from the OCBS meeting as Carl Richards. His name should have read **Bruce Richards**, who is a rep for 3M/Scientific Angler.

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.

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>

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.

January 9th General Meeting

Mike Durkalec, Cleveland Metroparks Aquatic Biologist (and all around fishing guru, as well as a new member), will be speaking on the future of the Ohio Brook Trout Project and will have some time to speak on winter fishing opportunities in the Metroparks too.

February 13th General Meeting, Steelhead Forum

We will be trying something new for February's meeting. Instead of the customary guest speaker, we will be having a member driven forum and discussion on Steelhead Fly Fishing. Many of our members are new to the sport, and many of us need a refresher for the Spring run. Who isn't looking for advice to improve their day on the water? Topics will include rigging, floats and presentations, locations to fish, flies, and reading the water. If there is a question you have or you are willing to share an area of your expertise with

your fellow anglers, please contact Tim Schulz via e-mail t_timefff@yahoo.com. Or just attend that night and we will have time for some Q & A.

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

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: Jan. 3, 10, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 28; Mar. 5, 19, 26

Please note that the third week of each month is skipped to allow for the Firelands Fly Fishers Board Meeting,

Firelands Fly Fishers Weekend Outings

The board has proposed a series of fishing days for Firelands Fly Fishers members. More details will become available as these dates near, but for now we have scheduled a day of steelhead fishing on the Rocky River for Sunday, March 16, steelhead fishing on the Vermilion River on Sunday, April 13, bass fishing at Presque Isle Bay (or Black River) May 18. We are also considering a trip to Oil Creek in June.

North Coast Fly Tying Expo – this Saturday

This annual event, hosted by North Coast Fly Fishers, is scheduled for Saturday, January 5th 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. Expo will have fly tiers, casting instruction for beginners, lectures on Steelhead fishing, Rod Building, retail stores, fishing clubs, raffles and drawings. www.expo2008.ncff.net

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

This annual show is sponsored by Buckeye United Fly Fishers and is being held February 9th. For more information, visit <http://buckeyeflyfishers.com>

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>

"My wife said I have so many fly rods and reels that I cannot possibly use them all. My reply was that I had rods and reels to fish, rods and reels to tinker with and then my fine crafted rods and reels to 'fondle and admire, while dreaming of trout fishing during the cold winter months.'

You can imagine what kind of look she gave me."

- Jimmy D. Moore

FLY OF THE MONTH, JANUARY

Wild Rabbit

Hook: Mustad #36890 upturned eye. Size range 2 to 8

Thread: Black 6/0

Eyes: Nickel Plated, Lead, Small dumbbell eyes ¼ oz

Body: Crosscut Rabbit Strips in Black and Fl. Fuchsia

Accent: Krystal Flash - Pearl



photo #1

Photo # 1 Tie in the lead eyes on top of the hook shank (Clouser style) about 1/8" back from the hook eye. Seal the windings with head cement to keep the eyes in place. Bring the tying thread to the bend of the hook and tie in the Black Crosscut Rabbit strip. Insure that the hair is flowing toward the rear of the hook. Bring the tying tread to about 1/4 " from the eye. Palmer the rabbit to about 1/4" from the eye keeping the fur flowing toward the rear of the hook. Trim off the excess.

Photo # 2 Tie in about 8 strands of Krystal Flash and allow them to spread around the black fur. Trim them to the length of the hook.



photo #2



photo #3

Photo # 3 Tie in the Fluorescent Fuchsia color rabbit strip and take two winds around the hook to bring it to the weight eyes. Tie off the Fuchsia rabbit and trim the excess. Form a head with the black thread and whip finish. Add head cement if desired.

This is a Steelhead / Salmon fly that can be tied as the Clouser pattern shown, or also tied as a tube fly with a cone weight on the leader to add the weight. 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

PET FLY SMACKDOWN *By Tim Schulz*

We must be getting older, I hope isn't just "wimpier". It is Saturday morning, November 10; I am in Dorchester, Iowa and am pleased with a morning low of 26 degrees. There is talk of temps reaching 40.

Last year the high on Saturday was 25. Sunday morning I woke up to an 8 on the thermometer, the high made it all the way to 16. Ice on the guides is an understatement. That was in December, that evening it didn't take any beers to convince us to move the tournament to November. Who is "us"? What tournament? Why is Tim fishing in Iowa...in the cold?

In 2003, while I was a resident of Illinois, a friend of mine named Matt (known as MP in some fishing circles) had designed a fly using dubbing from his cat's fur. The cat's name was Tucker and the fly became the Tucker Nymph. He caught some fish on it and occasionally caught a lot of fish on it and word got around amongst friends and internet fishing acquaintances. I am not sure of all the details, but someone issued a challenge and the Pet Fly Smackdown was created.

Dates, locations, rules, teams and even a pot luck menu and T-shirts ensued. In December 2003, the first Pet Fly Smackdown (PFS) was held in Northeast Iowa. Rich, a guide from Wisconsin, had a trailer near some prime water and a motel, so his site was our home base for the weekend. Why Iowa? Iowa has the only trout water that is open in the fall and winter, while Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan close most resident streams for the season. December seemed to be a good time for all involved and didn't coincide with other hot fishing action or runs.

Each team has to fish the entire day Saturday with one fly pattern created from pet hair. You can carry multiples of the same fly. We begin after a breakfast meeting and teams head out and fish hard until we can't see. There are at least a dozen worthwhile streams to hit within an hour drive and we rarely run into "the competition". The competition being friends made on the river or at fly tying sessions over the years. Participants come from the Twin Cities, Green Bay, southeast Wisconsin, various communities from all around Chicago...and some guy from Avon Lake.

The winning team is decided by each angler measuring each fish and then adding the team's total and getting an average based on the number of people on a team (1 to 4). My team, Team Red Hat, won that first year with the "Jubb-Jubb", a fly tied with cat dubbing. We have not won since, though the Tucker Nymph has done well winning the last 3 times in Iowa. It will be retired and MP will produce another fly this year.

Other flies have included streamer tied with dog hair, and "the Pink Lab" mimicking the pink squirrel fly that is famous in SW Wisconsin, and my team's fly this past year was a size 16 black caddis emerger tied with horse tail fibers for the body. My team captain and friend, Neil, claims his crazy aunt's horse is her pet. Also her dog, that is rumored to be the offspring of a dog raped by a coyote, produced a very coarse hair that made a nice Emerald Shiner pattern named "The Dirty Dog" for PFS III. The dog lives in North Dakota, the team captain, who could not attend, tied the fly in Minnesota and sent it down with our other teammate, Brennon also of Minnesota, to fish in Erie, PA. At PFS II, there was a fly named "Slutty Chihuahua"

Yep, PFS III was held in a snowstorm in Erie in December 2005. MP had won PFS II and thus proposed the challenge of a Smackdown for Steelhead. It was snowing so hard at one point that I actually was fishing with ski goggles on to maintain my vision. A lot of steelhead were caught and the winner was "Fat Matt" with a white mysis shrimp pattern called "Shrimp of Death".

It was hard to believe that this past tournament was the fifth consecutive Smackdown. Over twenty different fishermen have participated in PFS. The strength of this has been the comradery of friends and the year

round smack that we give each other on the internet. Although it gets a bit competitive on tournament day, we look forward to hitting the water with the competition on Sunday or on other occasions if we are lucky enough to get together throughout the year. Each year after the tournament, we gather for pot luck food and maybe a beer or two or ten.

Maybe it is age, or intelligence, but after last year's incredibly cold days of fishing, the move to a November tournament in 2007 proved beneficial with warmer temps, more daylight and more active fish spread out. It also seems that more food is being consumed and less alcohol than those first few years. There is no end in sight for Pet Fly Smackdown. Friendships continue with help from technology and the longing to be on trout streams with those friends never ceases. The possibility of watching our children participate in PFS XXII looms in my mind.

I have enjoyed everyday I have ever spent on the water with my teammates, Brennon and Neil, as well as the other participants and I can't wait until PFS VI arrives.

Some notes on fishing in Iowa

Most of you will never have an opportunity to trout fish in Iowa, but if you do you will be surprised. There are better places to go if you are travelling that far, but for many anglers in the Midwest Plains, it is a quick drive to this scenic area where over 50 streams are stocked with rainbows, browns and brookies. Several creeks have documented wild reproduction.

The Iowa DNR utilizes three hatcheries and stocks frequently April through November. Information on their stocking schedule, stream info, licenses, maps and parking details are available at:
<http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/trout.html>

The streams are often quite small and vary between limestone bluffs, open farm fields and occasional forest. Use of a 3 or 4 wt. rod is perfect with typical small stream presentations working, including dry flies in the spring and summer. Many farmers are kind enough to grant access on their property, while some of the best fly fishing is available on state hunting/fishing lands. We always wear orange in the fall because of the very real chance of being near pheasant, turkey and deer hunters.

You'll find some of the best fishing around Decorah, Iowa and in the three most Northeastern counties. My friends and I enjoy fishing on South Bear, North Bear, Waterloo Creek, French Creek, Cold Water Creek, and Trout Run in this area. I have not fished further south, but have heard that Paint, Sny Magill, Hickory, Bloody Run, and Turkey River are worth a visit.

FIRELANDS FLY FISHERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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