



the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

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March 2009

President's Corner

The Ohio Council of FFF held the quarterly meeting in February in Mansfield. There are a few interesting items to pass along from the meeting. The FFF National is working on an insurance program for the clubs. They have an insurance agency in Mississippi working on liability insurance for all club events and personal liability insurance for club officers and board members. This is just a proposal at this time and is not mandatory. This can amount to at least \$500 per year in expenses. It is something to consider and more will be said at the next monthly meeting.

Project Healing Waters is coming into being for the OHC. North Coast Fly Fishers is beginning a program for veterans at the Brecksville VA Hospital. Our club is considering a program with the Sandusky VA facility. This is an outstanding program to help our veterans. We need the help of club members to make this a reality. Please consider giving some of your time and talents to help a veteran that helped us.

The club hats are finished and they look great. They will be available at the next meeting for the low price of \$15. Get yours before they are all gone. It is a very high quality hat with the club logo and the color makes them a great fishing hat.

If any member has any shirts they want embroidered with the club logo then bring them to the March meeting. The cost will be about \$10 for the club logo and your name. We need a dozen shirts to make it economical to have the job done.

The Yough trip on June 1-3 is written in stone. Don't forget to give me your deposit. I talked to Dale at Wilderness Voyageurs and he is getting prices on both renting a raft to float the river on your own or with a guide for the day. The guided trip is for two people and includes a gourmet lunch; the price last year was \$245 for 2 people. It increased this year but is still a bargain. The also have kayaks for fishing the river also. There is also a campground for primitive camping (tents only) at Paddlers Lane. Their website is www.paddlerslane.com

The rod building class on Wednesday is attracting a lot of rod builders. Stop in and get an education on rod building. The Thursday fly tying class has been full every Thursday too. This is a good opportunity to tie patterns for the Yough trip in June. Note that Fly Tying moves to Wednesdays in March and April.

Don't forget to send me the monthly report of club activities by any member. I need to know the activity, number of people and number of hours.

March should be the beginning of Steelhead fishing again whenever the weather cooperates. As the weather improves the Trout fishing in Pennsylvania should improve also - Think OIL CREEK!

Good Fishing!!

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

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.

Last Meeting: February 11th – Dave and George from Wet Fly Waterguides

Thanks again to Dave and George for making the trip out and showing us some of those beautiful wet fly patterns they have mastered over the years. For more information or to contact Dave and George please visit their website at <http://wetflywaterguides.com> 36 members were in attendance.

Next Meeting: March 11th – Chagrin River Outfitters – Steelhead Fly Fishing

Who is ready for some steelhead fishing? The rivers will be shaping up in a few days, the fish are coming upstream and Matt Hynes is driving over to the west side to share some tips, advice and stories with us on fly fishing right here in “Steelhead Alley.”

2009 Monthly Meeting Schedule

Mar. 11th – Matt Hynes from Chagrin River Outfitters
Apr. 8th – Saltwater Fly Fishing
May 13th – Casting Night, Walker Road Park, Avon Lake
June 10th – Annual Summer Picnic and Raffle



Special Sunday Fly Tying Appearances at Gander Mountain

Director of Fly Tying, **Tom Zmina**, will be tying Steelhead Flies (Eggs, Woolly Bugger, and Sucker Spawn) on **Sunday, March 8** and Bass Flies (Crayfish, Muddler Minnow and Leach) on **Sunday, March 15**. Both of these special demonstrations take place from 11 AM – 2 PM at Gander Mountain in Sheffield. Also, on **April 19th**, Tom and anyone wishing to join him will be tying decorative fly pattern earrings for women from 3 – 5 PM. Any additional help is welcome and please spread the word to your fishing friends.

Fly Tying Sessions at Gander Mountain

Fly tying is open to everyone and begins at 6 PM in the Lodge Room. The club does have some tools and vices available for your use and there are plenty of people available for instructions or advice. Gander Mountain is located in Cobblestone Square in Sheffield Village, near Rt. 301/Rt. 254 and I-90.

Lodge Room at Gander Mountain: Wednesdays in March 4, 18, 25 (general meeting on 11th)

Lodge Room at Gander Mountain: Wednesdays in April 1, 15, 22, 29 (general meeting on 8th)

Rod Building Classes

Steve Smith reports that the rod building classes that were held on Thursdays in February have been well attended and will continue on Wednesdays, along with Fly Tying, in March (see schedule above). Please contact **Steve Smith** at his e-mail pnvinc@alltel.net if you have questions or are interested. Steve also would like to remind everyone that the club has a rod wrapping machine and automatic drying rack available for rod building.

Midwest Fly Fishing Exposition – this weekend!

The 31st annual Fly Fishing Exposition is this weekend, March 7-8 at Macomb County College in Warren, MI. There are numerous outfitters, guides, shops, tiers, and a casting pond. Notable guests include Gary Borger, Jim Teeny, Bob Jacklin and Oscar Feliu. <http://www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com/index.php>

Fly Fishing Film Tour to stop at Cedar Lee Theatre

The 2009 Fly Fishing Film Tour is making its way around the country right now. A stop is planned for Monday, March 30th at 7 PM at Cedar Lee Theater, 2163 Lee Road in Cleveland Hts. Tickets are \$10 under 12 years old; \$12 55 years and older; \$15 ages 12-54. The tour features seven independent films this year. For film listing, tour schedule and advance tickets please visit <http://www.flyfishingfilmtour.com>

Firelands Fly Fishers Trips and Outings

The board has discussed the possibility of holding several fishing outings this spring and summer. Though I personally hesitate to publish any dates for a local steelhead outing; this would pre-determine a flood for that date (note: 3 out 3 outings were cancelled last spring because of high water). Hopefully soon we can announce a date or two for some local steelhead outings, but in the mean time we are planning ahead for the annual club trip to Pennsylvania. This year we are heading to the Youghioghny River June 1-3. Bill Grake has reserved a rental home (rental is full) along the river and plans are being made for camping as well.

Fly Fishing for bass in Erie's Presque Isle Bay was one of the cancellations last year (High surf?!?!) and is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 16. There is also a possibility of another trip to Oil Creek. At the March or April meeting, we will be discussing or gauging interest in a seminar day at Sunnybrook, most likely on a Monday in June or July.

Fishing the Clear Fork: Ted Zalenski is gathering information for an April or May outing to the Clear Fork. The date may totally depend on water conditions. Ted would like to schedule something during the week for camping or just a day trip to avoid the crowds. If we have a lot of rain, the streams will be blown out and hard to fish. Jim Stone of the Mohican Fly Fishers (FFF Club) has been contacted for more info. Their site, www.mohicanflyfishersofohio.com gives pertinent info (flies, water conditions etc.) in the "fishing the river" section.

Bamboo Bash will be held on May 9th at the Bellville American Legion Pavilion for anyone who likes to fish with cane. More info on that may be available soon. Also, the Mohican Wildlife Weekend is May 1-3 and the Mohican Fly Fishers will be tying at casting near the covered bridge in the state park. <http://www.mohicanwildlifeweekend.com>

If anyone is interested in either camping or just going down for the day, contact Ted at zmant@att.net. Anyone wishing to camp should make their own reservations once a date is set. Ted will pass on camping info to those interested once he has it.

News and Notes

Membership Dues for 2009

If you have not done so, please remember to pay your membership dues for 2009. Club membership for one individual is \$10 for one year or \$25 for three years. Checks can be made to Firelands Fly Fishers and can be submitted at any club meeting or by mail to Firelands Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 244, Avon, OH 44011 Questions about your membership? Contact Brent Feorene, Dir. of Membership, at brentfeorene@att.net

New fishing licenses for 2009 are required beginning March 1st.

It is almost that time of year again, be sure to check out various options as free or reduced license fees are available for seniors. For everyone else, one of the best bargains in the country still exists at \$19 for the annual resident license. To purchase your license online follow this link:

<https://www.greatlodge.com/oh/license/welcome?ol=undefined>

For information on regulations, prices and vendors, please visit:

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/dow/regulations/vendor.aspx>

Help a Veteran! Healing Waters Fly Fishing

The Ohio Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and the North Coast Fly Fishers are beginning a local program of the national Healing Waters campaign. This program links injured veterans up with local fly fisherman and clubs to take them fishing, teach fly tying or practice casting. We are hoping to be a part of this or establish our own program. Please step-up and come forward to be a part of this opportunity. We'll be discussing this more at coming meetings, but for now, we need volunteers.

Reel & Heal Fly Fishing Retreats

Retreats designed for women that have or had breast cancer are conducted by Reeling and Healing, Inc., a non-profit organization. Retreats will be held May 17-19 and Sept 20-22 at Rockwell Springs and June 12-14 and July 5-7 in Wellston, MI. For more information go to www.reelandheal.com or e-mail **Judy Walle** (wife of Toledo fly tier Dick Walle) at judy.walle@reelandheal.com

Vermillion Sports Flea Market – this Saturday

The 3rd Annual 2009 Vermillion Outdoor Sports Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 8 am to 4 pm. The event will be held at German's Village, 3330 Liberty Avenue, Vermillion. Admission is Adults \$5.00, children over 12 - \$2.00, children under 12 free. Women and children are free with a nonperishable food donation. Boating, fishing, hunting, camping and outdoor sports related items. For more information call: Larry at 440-320-6908 or 440-965-4068 or Brett at 440-371-4018 or 440-984-4204.

Holy Mackerel Fishing Flea Market Sale

This popular sale takes place at the New Russia Township Hall, 46268 Butternut Ridge Road in Oberlin. The dates are Friday April 3rd, 9 – 8 PM; Saturday April 4th, 8 - 6 PM; Sunday April 5th, 11- 5 PM. <http://cleveland.craigslist.org/eve/1009910377.html>

72nd Annual Cleveland Sport, Travel and Outdoor Show

March 18 – 22 at the I-X Center. <http://www.sportandtravel.com/cleveland/visitor-showhours.html>

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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Director of Web Site: **Rob Mastnardo**

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Librarian: **Mike Janosko**

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Fly of the Month, March – Hare's Ear Wet Fly

This pattern is courtesy of our February meeting guest speakers, George and Dave of Wet Fly Waterguides, Johnstown, PA. The speakers presented this fly to show off its soft materials that will move in the water.

Hook: Size 12, 2X long shank, Wet fly/ Nymph hook.

Thread: Size 8/0, Rusty Dun color.

Tail: Ruffe Grouse feather.

Wire: Fine brass wire.

Dubbing: Hare's Ear Plus Dubbing, Tan.

Soft Hackle: Hungarian Partridge feather.

Top wing: Ruffe Grouse feather.

Photo # 1 Tie in the thread to cover the hook shank. Tie in about 10 barbs of a Grouse feather to form the tail. Wrap the thread under the back of the tail to allow the feather barbs to slant upward. Trim off the excess.

Photo # 2 Tie in a few inches of fine brass wire. Let it stick out past the tail. Leave it there for later.

Photo # 3 Dub in a body of Hare's Ear dubbing to just past the 3/4 point of the hook shank.

Photo # 4 Spiral wrap the brass wire over the dubbed body to the point of the thread. Tie off the brass wire and trim off the excess with nippers.

Photo # 5 Tie in a Hungarian Partridge body feather and wrap about 3 to 4 wraps to form a soft hackle.

Photo #6 Tie in about 20 barbs of a grouse feather on the top of the soft hackle to form a top wing. Form a head, whip finish the thread and trim off the thread. Add a small amount of head cement to the thread only. This is the completed fly.

*For Fly of the Month recipes and patterns,
please visit our web site at
www.firelandsflyfishers.org*

*Also, please join us for Fly Tying Nights at Gander Mountain
on Wednesdays. Details can be found in the event listing
of the indicator monthly newsletter*

Tom Zmina, Director of Fly Tying, Firelands Fly Fishers

