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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 6 Issue 8

November 2009

## *President's Corner*

The club has a few members that have not paid their 2009 dues which were due in January 2009. We will be e-mailing or mailing each individual member that is past due. If you no longer wish to remain a member of Firelands Fly Fishers then contact our Dir. of Membership, Steve Bell, and we will remove your name from the roster. The best deal is to pay for a 3 year membership for \$25 instead of \$10 per year. Firelands Fly Fishers has very reasonable membership dues and we want to keep it as such but it does require that all members be current with their dues.

Also some members have not paid their Federation of Fly Fishers dues. The FFF National sends out renewal notices to individuals and is not renewable through Firelands Fly Fishers. Firelands Fly Fishers is a 100% Federation of Fly Fishers Club and as such requires all Firelands members to be members of FFF.

There is a change to the dates of the fishing trip to the Little Juniata River. Memorial Day next year is on Monday, May 31 and would have been the first day of the trip. The new dates are June 7, 8, 9. There is a lodge on the Little J that holds 12. This includes beds, cots and air mattresses. The cost is \$50/person/day. Let me know if you are going to go on the trip. I will make reservations in about a month and that requires the first nights lodging for each person. The Little J has great hatches and fishing and this should be our best trip ever. We may even catch a fish, but there are great restaurants in the area. The Little Juniata is SW of State College and Spruce Creek enters the Little J.

Our club has had no success trying to establish a Project Healing Waters with the Sandusky VA. Many of our members were very interested in volunteering in the program. North Coast Fly Fishers and the Emerald Necklace TU have established a Project Healing Waters program with the VA facility at Wade Park. If any member still wishes to become involved in the program they are currently recruiting volunteers. Contact Paul Blanch at: [blanch.ps@alertstamping.com](mailto:blanch.ps@alertstamping.com) or call 440 546 0023. Paul is a member of North Coast Fly Fishers and is the Ohio director for Project Healing Waters.

Good Fishing!!

Bill Grake,  
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

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## Fly of the Month, November

# Clouser Minnow

**Hook:** Mustad #3407DT or similar hook. Common sizes 2-4.

**Thread:** Gelspun polyester white, clear or red thread.

**Weight:** small or medium painted dumbbell eyes.

**Body:** Buck tail fur in any color combination. This example is tied in Chartreuse over white.

**Accent:** Krystal flash - rainbow or pearl color

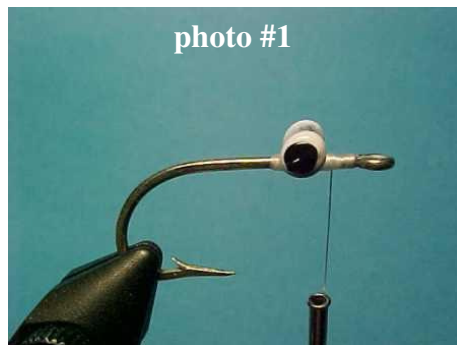


photo #1

**Photo # 1** Secure a solid base of thread on the first 1/2 of the hook shank near the eye. Measure back about 1/4" from the hook eye and use a figure 8 wrap to tie in the weighted eyes on the top of the hook shank. This will allow the weighted eyes to flip the hook over in the water with the point upward. You can apply head cement or glue if needed to keep the eyes solid to the hook.



photo #2

**Photo # 2** Tie in a slender pinch of white buck tail fur in front of the weighted eyes. Carry the tying thread through the lead eyes and bind the bucktail down directly behind the eyes to about half way down the hook shank. Wrap the thread back forward to the front of the eyes. Keep the white buck tail fur on top of the hook shank. Do not allow the hair to wrap around the hook shank.



photo #3

**Photo # 3** Tie in about 4 strands of Krystal flash at the eye and double it back over to the length of the tail. Keep it below the white buck tail so it will assume a level position along the hook shank.



photo #4, Completed Fly

**Photo # 4** Flip the hook over in your vise, or invert your rotary vise. Tie in a pinch of Chartreuse buck tail over the top of the crystal flash at the head only. Do not carry the thread down the hook shank as earlier with the white. Whip finish a head and add head cement to finish.

*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.*

### **2009 Firelands Event Schedule**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Ron Guttu, Stream Guide Companion Maps

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Christmas Dinner Pot Luck

### **2010 Events**

January 13<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting

February 10<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting

March 10<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting

April 14<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting, Chris Helm, guest speaker/fly tier

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Casting Night



### **October Meeting**

Matt Hynes (Chagrin River Outfitters) spent the summer with Alaska West as a guide fishing for rainbow trout, dolly varden, grayling and all five species of pacific salmon on and around the Kanektok River. Thanks Matt for sharing those amazing photos and showing off some very cool flies. 35 members attended.

### **Next Meeting – November 11**

Ron Guttu, the creator and owner of Stream Guide Companion Maps will be coming out to tell us more about his product and his experiences on Steelhead Alley. Ron will have his software available for sale.

### **Fly Tying Classes at Gander Mountain**

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! Director of Fly Tying, Tom Zmina, has put together the following schedule for the remainder of 2009 and he is once again working hard to bring us these great sessions and the Fly of the Month.

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 November 4, 18, 25**

**Wednesdays in December 2, 16, 23, 30**



### **Rod Building Classes**

Are you interested in building your own fly rod? Want to know how it is done? Rod building is a great opportunity to build yourself that special rod you always wanted. It can also be a real bonding experience (literally if you are not careful) with friends and fellow members. Steve Smith, club Vice President, will be gauging interest in holding a class this winter. Please let Steve know you are interested or speak with him if you have questions. The club owns some great tools and equipment to help you get started!

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

Several of the popular fly fishing or fly tying expos in our region have been scheduled. I have not found information or dates for the Buckeye United Fly Fishers show near Cincinnati yet. The Great Lakes Council FFF (MI and IN) is having their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Tying Expo in Holt, MI on Dec. 5. Our good friends on the east side will once again be hosting their North Coast Fly Fishing Expo at Lakeland Community College on January 16. Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited holds their annual Cabin Fever Show in Cranberry, PA on March 6. The 2010 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo will be hosted on March 13 and 14 by the Michigan Fly Fishers. More shows, details and links will be added to future newsletters as the "show season" progresses.

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

### **FFF Auction is back on line**

Through the eBay charity auctions web site, the FFF has re-launched this online fundraiser with a fly fishing art, lessons and trips. Keep checking back as new items are added.

<http://members.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewUserPage&userid=fedflyfisher&trksid=p3911.c0.m198>

### **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. There currently are plans to hold monthly drawings until then for smaller prizes. 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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## ***Editor's Notes***

### **Membership Updates**

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

As Bill noted above, 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, Dir 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.

### **Bragging Board for Firelands Fly Fishers: fish photos**

Have you caught any big fish this year? Or you have photos of a really pretty fish that you just want everyone to see? Well send them in!! Who doesn't like a little "fish porn" in the winter?

I am in the early stages of planning a bragging board...if you have a better name than Bragging Board, please tell me...I'll try and share some pics through this newsletter and we will post them on our website. Hopefully we can get this going by December and we will add on and improve it over time.

If you would like to participate, please follow these steps and guidelines (not rules, just suggestions):

- Photos should be of fish caught since 2008 while fly fishing
- Include a description of the fish caught (i.e., species and size),
- What fly or type of fishing you were doing
- Include the location and/or body of water, plus date or month
- Please do not send really large files
- E-mail to Tim Schulz at [t\\_timefff@yahoo.com](mailto:t_timefff@yahoo.com)
- Send photos in e-mail attachments, preferably in .jpeg format



*Bill Graw, Elk Creek, Nov. 2008*

**The following is from the September Royal Gorge Anglers (Canon City, CO) Newsletter by Bill Edrington, 9/18/09**

Hello Everyone,

It has been another beautiful early fall week in Southern Colorado. The high country is bristling in gold and the lower elevation cottonwoods along the river are starting to join in the dance as well. As soon as the oak brush turns red, we'll have the whole shebang. Brown Trout are putting on the feedbag in a big way preparing for the spawning season which should start very soon on the South Platte and on the Arkansas around the middle of October.

Actually, fish may be a little ahead of schedule on the Arkansas right now because the males we are landing are showing a bit of bottom lip and their colors are vibrant. They are also beginning to get into "chase mode" as well. I took a couple of nice males on a small streamer two nights ago in the rain by stripping it back up the shoreline towards me. None the less, now is a great time to get out and enjoy the Rocky Mountains. This is the time of year when they truly strut their stuff.

We went to the Fly Tackle Dealer Show in Denver last weekend. For those of you who don't follow the fly fishing industry, that is the show where dealers see all the new eye candy fishing stuff for the next year. There are generally more new gadgets, widgets, shiny reels and overpriced fly rods there to knock your socks off. Back over 20 years ago when we went to our first show, we truly enjoyed it. You really got to spend time with the folks that made the gear and fondle everything, have a few drinks and make some new friends. Now, in order to really hear about the stuff, you have to make an appointment with a rep or just stumble into a conversation. For about the past 10 years, I have been in the "stumble in" strategy. Actually fly fishing has turned into a pretty big industry, but I would bet that Halliburton makes more in one day than the entire fly fishing industry does in one year. However you would never guess that by the seriousness portrayed at these shows. This show used to take up an entire large hall at the Denver Convention Center. This year it was in one of the small ones and they only used half of that. Now, some of that is probably due to the economy, but last year wasn't any better and neither was the year before that. It may just be that the business model of having a big show each year has lost its luster. Either way, it looked pretty much like a funeral procession had just passed through.

Manufacturers with great gear at blue collar prices did well this year and the hoity-toity of the business, seemed to be all talking to each other during the time I was there. Some folks just don't seem to grasp the idea that the day of the \$800 graphite rod may be over, and rightly so. We haven't had a lot of trouble selling high end cane rods and \$300 graphite rods, but the plastic on the top shelf is going begging in most places. In my opinion, these manufacturers have been missing the boat for several years now and their

arrogance of pushing the price ceiling is coming home to roost. For one, I am glad to see it, but not everyone would agree. There is absolutely no justification for a \$700 pair of waders, an \$800 graphite fly rod, a \$1500 pair of skis or a \$5000 set of golf clubs for that matter. This stuff does not make the fun meter go any higher than a Zebco 202 in the hands of an 8 year old boy when he sticks his first trout on a worm.

We all seem to forget that as we get older, and I think we may be better for getting slapped around a little. I think, (and this is not a scientific study by any means) we have seen more folks in the store this year who are really happy about going fishing and forgetting all the politics and crap going on in their daily lives. I have enjoyed that very much and it makes me remember why I went into this business in the first place. To help people have a good time on their day or week off. Fly fishing is not a competition between you and the fish and the fish don't really care if they are caught on a \$100 rod or a \$1000 rod. They get stuck in the mouth both ways. I took out a little \$50 Eagle Claw fly rod the other night and was amazed at how nicely it fished.

As I sat on a rock around 7PM in a light rain, sipping a little of the malt, and watching fish rise, I remembered how much fun this sport really is. I'll go back to my cane rods, no question, because I have them and I love them. But they are mostly old like me and beg to go fishing. We just all need to act like a kid every now and then and remember what is important in life.....a good family, a few good friends, and old fly rod, and old dog, and a good single malt. New shiny rods and reels pale in comparison.

**Capire et Relinquere,  
Bill**

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An Irish priest loved to fly fish; it was an obsession of his. So far this year the weather had been so bad that he hadn't had a chance to get his beloved waders on and his favorite flies out of their box. Strangely though, every Sunday the weather had been good, but of course Sunday is the day he has to go to work.

The weather forecast was good again for the coming Sunday so he called a fellow priest claiming to have lost his voice and be in bed with the flu. He asked him to take over his sermon. The fly fishing priest drove fifty miles to a river near the coast so that no one would recognize him. An angel up in Heaven was keeping watch and saw what the priest was doing. He told God who agreed that he would do something about it.

With the first cast of his line a huge fish mouth gulped down the fly. For over an hour the priest ran up and down the river bank fighting the fish. At the end when he finally landed the monster size fish it turned out to be a world record Salmon.

Confused the angel asked God, "Why did you let him catch that huge fish? I thought you were going to teach him a lesson."

God replied "I did. Who do you think he's going to tell?"

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

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Secretary: **Joe Sloboda**

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Director of Communications: **Tim Schulz**

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