

the indicator

The newsletter of the Firelands Fly Fishers Inc.

www.firelandsflyfishers.org

P.O. Box 244, Avon Ohio 44011

Volume 4 Issue 6

October 2007

President's Corner

The fourth year of Firelands Fly Fishers is well underway. We continue the main mission of the Club and the FFF which is education. The fly tying classes on Thursday nights have been meeting for 3 weeks at Sandy Ridge and will continue there until the end of October. After that they will be held at Gander Mountain in Sheffield Village. This is a good opportunity to learn how to tie all the Steelhead flies you will be in short supply of very soon.

A fly rod building class is in the offering and is being led by Steve Smith. If you are interested in learning how to build your own rod then contact Steve for further information.

Another pest is causing problems in trout streams in certain areas of the United States. An algae (a Diatom), which has the nickname of Rock Snot, has been found in some Western and Northeastern Trout streams. Didymo grows in thick mats and covers the rocks in the streams like a mat. It can be spread to other streams from your wading boots. Soaking your boots in Clorox will kill the beasts. There is no way to eliminate the algae and the only defense is not to spread it to other streams. You can find more information on the national FFF website at www.fedflyfishers.org

The Clambake will be on Sunday, October 21 at Beaver Creek Boat Club. Social hour is at 5 pm with dinner starting at 6pm. This will be the best clambake ever. For \$25/person or \$45/couple you will be treated to the clambake and refreshments (beer/soda/water provided) - BYOB. Extra clams are \$7/dozen. The menu includes Clam Chowder, clams, chicken, corn, potato, roll and butter. Please make reservations by Monday, October 15.

Unfortunately it's still too warm for Steelhead.

Good fishing,

Bill Grake
President, Firelands Fly Fishers

Editor's Notes

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

From July 1, 2007 to 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 35.00 rate and write in 15.00. **Membership form must be signed by the club president** to certify that the applicant is a member of the affiliate club.

- These will qualify for credits towards Rod New Member Incentive Program during this promotion period.
- This is not for FFF membership renewals.

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. Also offered is a lifetime couple's membership for \$1250 (two rods given). 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

A request to our fellow club members...Authors, photographers, poets, thespians, editors, etc...

I have a new idea and hope to turn it into a plan quickly, it seems easy enough (in my head and hopefully in print too). I am asking that each month we have a guest columnist from the membership. The article written ideally will be about ¾ to 1 whole page. I won't turn away a longer piece, but let's keep it interesting. Also, you can write about most anything pertaining to fishing. You could write about your fantastic summer vacation fishing in the mountains, share a favorite fishing tale, a recipe, a fly pattern or special techniques and tips. How about sharing some advice from your years of steelheading? We produce *the indicator* 10 times per year and we have over 70 members and about 50 of us are actively involved or attend meetings and functions. Can you commit to an article every 4-5 years? I hope so; we'll talk more at the meetings.

New Director of Raffle, Brian DePalma

With a little nudge from past "Raffleman", **Joe Sloboda**, a new volunteer has come forward to run the raffles at our meetings. **Brian DePalma** was nominated and voted to the position at the September Board of Directors meeting (yes, he was there). One of our newest and youngest members, his claim to fame with the Firelands Fly Fishers may be that he was the first to land a trout on the Pennsylvania trip in June – and it was his first trout trip!! Let's hope he brings more of that beginners luck our way. Welcome aboard Brian!

Welcome New Member

Please offer a special welcome to **Dan Meehan** of Westlake. Dan joined our club at September's meeting.

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

Clam Bake: Save the Date – Sunday, October 21

The 2nd Annual Clam Bake will be held on Sunday, October 21. See page 5 below for more information and the form you can use to RSVP by Oct. 15. Bring this form and check to the Oct. 10 meeting. Invite a friend or neighbors to join you – the more the merrier!!

Fly Tying at Sandy Ridge Reservation on Thursday Nights, 6 PM – 9 PM

Fly Tying kicks into high gear with cooler weather and thoughts of steelhead cruising our streams. 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. This is a good place to pick up some tying tips, advice or just talk with the guys. We'll continue at Sandy Ridge in October and move over to Gander Mountain in November. Sandy Ridge is located north of Center Ridge Rd., east of Case and the entrance is on Otten Rd.

Sandy Ridge Fly Tying Schedule: Oct. 4, 11, 25;

Gander Mountain Fly Tying Schedule: Nov. 8 and 29; 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,

October 10th – General Meeting – 2 Guests

We welcome two guest speakers for the October meeting. Our first presentation will be from **Larry Elswick**. Larry's company is Studio E. Outdoors and sells fly tying materials and tools. You may have spotted Larry previously at the Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo. We also had previously scheduled Larry, but were forced to cancel that meeting due to the Valentine's Day snowstorm.

Our main presenter is a steelhead/salmon guide from North Olmsted, **Monte Casey**. Some of you may know him just as "Casey." His presentation will focus on fly fishing for Michigan Salmon and Lake Erie Steelhead using effective cross over patterns and similar techniques. Come hear Monte's tips that will help you save time tying flies and make your time in the river more effective.

Upcoming General Meetings

Next month's guest will be announced soon, the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 14th. On December 12th, we will convene to celebrate and, of course, eat at our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Party. More details will be in the November and December issues of *the indicator*.

North Coast Fly Tying Expo

This event is scheduled for January 5, 2008 at Cuyahoga Community College East Campus.

GLC Annual Fly Tying Expo

Great Lakes Council Fly Tying Expo, Dec. 1, 2007 in Mason, MI (near Lansing)

Creek Crawling in Pennsylvania ***by Brent Feorene***

The fly fisher can pursue his quarry in a variety of locations and conditions. The quiet sport can take you from the unrelenting heat of Caribbean bone fishing flats to the bluster and chill of Midwest Steelhead Rivers to the lush beauty of a mountain stream in the Spring. As a dedicated freshwater fly fisherman, I thought that I had a well-rounded set of experiences. I was soon to learn otherwise as I was introduced to

the demented world of creek crawlers.

Bill, a friend and business client, discovered I enjoyed fly fishing and invited me to join him on his annual late summer trip to Pennsylvania. Now, I have visited the streams of central Pennsylvania and Jonas the Innkeeper on three separate occasions with Firelands. I have also plied the craft on the Pennsylvania Steelhead Rivers a number of times. I jumped at the chance to put my Pennsylvania experience to work and maybe teach Bill a thing or two about angling in the Keystone State.

Having fished the area before, Bill told me that we would be fishing for brookies in small streams of the Allegheny watershed northeast of Oil City. He mentioned names like Hemlock Creek, Logan Run, Porcupine Creek, Reese Run and Minister Creek with a combination of excitement, respect and maybe a bit of obsession. I had never heard of these hunting fields, let alone fished them. Asking me what fly rods I owned, he told me that my Sage TXL 7'10" 3wt "should do, I guess". This rod had taken care of me during my adventures into Centre County Pennsylvania and I felt well-equipped for whatever labors the fishing gods used to test me in Forest and Warren Counties.

We set-up camp late Friday evening in the woods on the banks of East Hickory Creek. The land is second growth forest owned and harvested by the Collins Paper Company. Completely undeveloped and without any amenities save for a fire ring, it defined primitive camping. The local general store was setting their clock with my regular 7:00 AM visit each morning.

We woke early on Saturday and, taking several dirt roads, arrived at our first water. I dressed and rigged-up, then checked-out my friend's rig and first offering. I knew I was in trouble when I inspected his rod and was introduced to a fiberglass 6'6" 1wt. Taking note, I followed him, stumbling down an incline to the water, if you want to call it that. I have seen more water in my backyard after a heavy rain. Admitting that the water was a "bit low", Bill assured me not to worry, we would move upstream to find better water and fish.

Over the next eight hours, we walked through what amounted to drainage ditches with large rocks strewn throughout, wandered in dry creek beds and rock hopped over moss-covered boulders the size of kitchen stoves, all to find a sink-bowl sized pocket or pool that often contained one or two finicky, paranoid 5"-6" brookies! When we found them, the cover was so tight, loading a graphite rod was near impossible – the beauty of fiberglass. I even took a hard fall the third day (our last) on a boulder when my studded, rubber sole wading boots failed to grip the moss, taking out my fly reel: Note to self: non-studded felt boots are a requirement in creek crawling and cost less than a fly reel.

On the bright side, we caught our fair share of fish, got plenty of exercise, enjoyed a beautiful part of Pennsylvania and got to know one another a bit better. On the dark side, I believe I have become addicted to creek crawling - felt, fiberglass and all. I can't wait to start crawling next season.

Take 80E to 8N to 62N past the town of Tionesta. About six miles north of Tionesta, around the junction with SR 666, you are in a great area. The DeLorme Pennsylvania Atlas & Gazetteer is invaluable – see page 30. While there are no fly shops after Oil City, there area number of general stores full of locals who can provide information.

Here's the PA Fish & Boat Commission links for:

Forest County <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/water/county/fore.htm>

Warren County <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/water/county/warr.htm>

Happy creek crawling!

Completed Fly, photo #8



Fly of the Month, October - Pheasant Tail Nymph

Hook: Size 12 to 20 - Scud type hook

Thread: 8/0 fine - brown or dark tan

Tail and Body: Pheasant tail feather barbs

Ribbing: Fine gold wire

Throat: Fine dark grey (Adams) dubbing

photo #1



Photo # 1 Tie in the fine gold wire and wrap the shank to add the desired weight. Leave about a 3" tag of wire near the tail of the hook.

photo #2

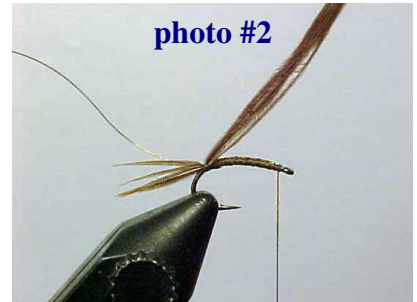


Photo # 2 Separate 4-5 Pheasant tail feather barbs and tie them in to form a tail. Extend out about the length of the hook shank. Do not trim off excess. Bring your thread to the hook eye.

photo #3

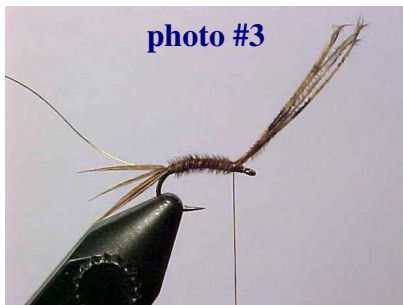


Photo # 3 Twist the barbs for a few revolutions to form a rope and wrap the hook shank to just before the hook eye to form the body. Leave the excess on the top of the hook and do not trim.

photo #4



Photo # 4 Dub in a small amount of the Adams dubbing to form a throat just behind the eye.

photo #5



Photo # 5 Wrap the gold wire over the body to the eye. Wrap in the opposite direction of the pheasant tail body leaving space between the wraps. This will reinforce the strength of the pheasant barbs. Tie off the wire at the eye and trim the excess wire.

photo #6



Photo # 6 Bring the thread back to the rear of the throat. Flop the remaining Pheasant barbs over the back to the thread and tie down to form a shell casing.

Photo # 7 Bring the thread back to the eye. Flop the remaining Pheasant tail barbs back over the top to the eye and tie them off. Trim off the remaining Pheasant barbs. Whip-finish the head and trim off the thread. Add a small amount of head cement to the upper side of the head only.

Photo # 8 Take a bodkin needle or Velcro and pick out the underside of the throat dubbing to form legs. Trim back legs to be even with hook point.

photo #7



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

Firelands Fly Fishers Board of Directors

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

President: Bill Grake	bahiapark@yahoo.com
Vice President: Steve Smith	pnpinc@alltel.net
Secretary: Joe Sloboda	archwoodangler@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Bill Graw	william_j_graw@keybank.com
Director of Annual Funding: Ted Zalenski	zmant@att.net
Director of Communications: Tim Schulz	T_timeFFF@yahoo.com
Director of Fly Tying: Tom Zmina	Zminat@yahoo.com
Director of Membership: Brent Feorene	brentfeorene@roadrunner.com
Director of Raffle: Brian DePalma	briandepalma@adelphia.net
Director of Web Site: Rob Mastnardo	r.mastnardo@firelandsflyfishers.org

The Firelands Fly Fishers Clam Bake

Date: Sunday, October 21, 2007

Deadline: Please RSVP by Monday, October 15

Time: Social hour 5:00 pm – Dinner 6:00 pm

Place: Beaver Creek Boat Club
6099 Lake Road Lorain, OH
(Entrance at Beaver Creek Marina – south side of road)

Cost: \$25 per person; \$45 per couple - Adults only
\$7 for an extra dozen clams

Menu: Chowder, clams, chicken, corn, potato, roll, butter
Beer, pop and water provided; BYOB

Return this form to Bill Grake at a meeting or by mail to:

**Bill Grake
3387 Jaycox Road
Avon, Ohio 44011**

NAME (s): _____

\$25 for one person _____

\$45 per couple _____

\$7 extra dozen clams _____

Total enclosed: _____ checks are payable to Firelands Fly Fishers