



The Taut Line

November 2009

Volume 22, Issue 10

The Taut Line Newsletter is a publication of the North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc. (NCFF) who is solely responsible for its content. The Taut Line is published ten times yearly from September thru June, under the direction of the Director of Communications, NCFF. All inquiries should be directed to:

Taut Line Newsletter
P.O. Box 312
Painesville, OH 44077
Attn: Dir. Of Communications

The North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc is a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Its purpose is to promote fly-fishing as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing. We are committed to provide education in the best practices and techniques of the sport, including fly tying, fly casting and resource conservation. Our members are committed to maintaining a current membership in the FFF.

Favorite Fly Tier - November

The North Coast Fly Fishers "Favorite Fly Tier" for November will be **Karen Turner**

Bring your fly tying vise and join in, all materials will be supplied, as **Karen** demonstrates her favorite fly.

Next Meeting: Members Meeting

November 4, 2009 at Lake Farm Park

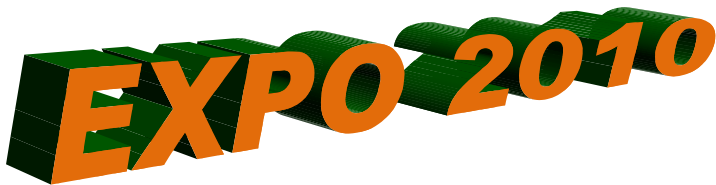
Speaker- Eric Austin

Our November speaker will be Eric Austin from Delaware Ohio. How he got to tying Classic Flies from starting out as a musician in a traveling rock band could be an interesting subject in and of itself. However, Eric will be showing us some classic wet fly ties in the English and American styles, no-hackle winging and a full dress salmon fly. These are styles for neophytes to learn and intermediate and accomplished tiers to review. These are techniques we all like to keep in our repertoire and review periodically.

Eric has a web site (www.traditionalflies.com) that contains flies, tying techniques and tricks and also links to other classic fly tying sites. He has also contributed to www.flyangersonline.com. At this site, you scroll to the bottom of the home page and there are a number of topics in small print. Eric's contributions are in "just old flies", double click on it and you will be presented with a 'lot' of information!

As you may recall Eric was at our May meeting last season. He pretty much spent the entire meeting speaking on classic flies. It was planned that he would also tie; however, he didn't get a chance. So this meeting will be Part II, Eric will tie some of his patterns. So if you saw Eric's presentation in May, you won't want to miss the tying, and if you didn't make it last May (as I did), you will not want to miss the tying!

So, BE THERE, Wed. Nov. 4, it will be a great program.

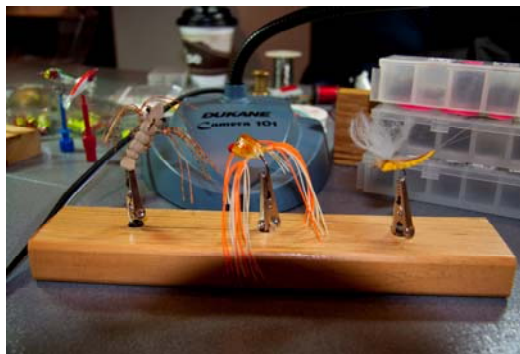


We have a couple requests from our Expo committee:

1. Members are asked to clean out their fishing gear lockers and bring any unwanted items to the next membership meeting. Items received will be forwarded to Expo bargain table. Drop off the items at the check in desk at the meeting October 7.
2. There will also be an Expo display at Mentor, Geneva & Rocky River Libraries for the month of January. These displays will be in a locked up window as you walk inside the Libraries. We would like to have members loan (items will be returned after the display is taken down Jan. 31, 2010) some fishing items, boots, books, poles, flies, etc so that we can set up a great display to show what fly-fishing is about and things we do in the club. This will also give us a chance to put our new brochures to work out in this venue. We will be completing these displays the 2nd of January, so we can advertise for our Expo and also it will be good advertisement for the club. If you have items you would like to loan please bring them to the next few meetings (October, November, and December) and contact Mike Colo (at the raffle table) to loan your items. Please mark them with your name somewhere in a non-viewable place so that we'll know who to return them to in January.

October Meeting Pictures:

Ron Dilbone had a great display & demonstrating his flies with foam and deer hair.



Basic Fly Tying - October Meeting



Mike Colo with our Raffle table.... Come join us and see what you may win!!!



FFF News

- FFF Annual Conclave 2010 -

The location for 2010 will be in West Yellowstone, Montana. The dates are August 23 – 28. More information will be posted to the site in the coming months. Mark your calendars!

- Volunteers Wanted at Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation Events -

If you would like to help out at any of the below listed locations please contact Jeff Sedor at jsedor@rbff.org or 703-519-0013 x107

- * January 20-24, 2010 Louisville, Boat, RV & Sportshow: Louisville, KY
- * February 11-15, 2010 Miami International Boat Show: Miami, FL
- * February 19-22, 2010 Bassmaster Classic: Birmingham, AL
- * March 3-7, 2010 Fred Hall Long Beach: Long Beach, CA
- * March 24-28, 2010 Northwest Sportshow: Minneapolis, MN
- * March 24-28, 2010 Fred Hall Del Mar: Del Mar, CA

The Six Curious Girls

By Bill King

On the Saturday after September 11, 2001, a day that profoundly changed America, my daughter Jennifer and I did something very ordinary. We went fly fishing in Pennsylvania near State College. We had booked Centre Mills Bed and Breakfast, near Rebersburg, far ahead of time, and felt that we could possibly lose our deposit had we cancelled at the last minute. So after weighing the pros and cons, and some soul searching we decided to go fishing anyway. If we had cancelled, we felt that this would indicate fear on our part, and the terrorists would have won some small, indefinable victory.

During the 250 mile, four hour, drive to Rebersburg, the weather was sunny and the sky deep blue, with only a few white clouds. We knew of the ban on air travel, and kept looking at the sky. As we expected there were no contrails visible, but this still looked very strange. We saw six identical golden Labrador Retriever puppies at an interstate rest stop that had been in a bathroom tissue television commercial. The owners of these puppies let them out to play (and pee I am sure). This attracted the attention of young and old alike, and was a welcome sign of normalcy.

We arrived at the B&B late in the day. It was located on a one and a half lane local country road. The B&B was an old, restored, stone farmhouse, built in the middle of the 19th century. The house was only fifteen feet from the road, and surrounded by large old oak trees which shaded the house. There was no front yard, just a myriad of colorful flowers filling the area between the house and the edge of the road. An old sign indicated that parking was just off the street near the side of the house. Across the street was a dairy farm. We later learned that the farm family was Mennonite. The farm pasture fence was on the other side of the road from the parking. This distance was not more than twenty feet.

Upon arrival, we immediately went into the house to register. The proprietress was a lady named Maria Davidson. We introduced ourselves to her, and told her we had reservations. She was about 65 years old and told us she ran the B&B by herself. She had gray hair, and wore a kitchen apron over an old faded dress. She had a delightful accent.

"Where are you from?" I asked, my curiosity getting the best of me.

"I'm from Germany," she said. "I emigrated here many years ago." It was wonderful speaking with her, not only because of her accent, but because she had a very sunny outlook on life. We had booked a two-room suite rather than two separate rooms to save money, but Maria said that no one else was staying there that weekend, so each of us could have separate suites, without paying any additional money. I think that she was grateful that we did not change our plans, and cancel. I was sure that the B&B was not normally this empty, and wondered to myself how many cancellations she received.

Down the hill, not more than thirty yards behind the house was Elk Creek. This is a famous Centre County (Pennsylvania) trout stream, and the main reason we booked this B&B. I was very excited by this prospect and went to look at the stream conditions. To my surprise I noticed that dirty yellow foam was floating on the surface of the stream, carried downstream by the current.

After reconnoitering the stream, I walked up the hill and reentered the house.

"Are those soap suds?" I asked Maria, indicating the stream.

"Yes," she said.

"When did this happen?" I asked.

"It has been coming on for a long time," she responded. "It is unfortunate, but the increasing population pressure and poor septic systems are contributing to the decreased quality of the creek water. It is particularly bad today."

I decided that we were not going to fish Elk Creek on this trip. We needed some other spot, and Fishing Creek came to mind.

“How far is Fishing Creek?” I asked Maria.

“Not far,” she responded, “only about 5 miles away.”

I thought to myself that I hoped Fishing Creek was fishable. I knew that it had a pretty good reputation too, but had not researched it before the trip.

“Oh well,” I thought. “The patterns that I had tied for Elk Creek should work on Fishing Creek. Same insects I reasoned. It’s not that far away.”

After registering we went back out to the car to retrieve our clothes and toiletries. Immediately six cows that were grazing in the field across the street gathered at the barbwire fence and looked over it at Jennifer and myself. They didn’t make a sound but watched us unload very intently. All six stared right at us. It was slightly unnerving because they were only a few feet away. I ignored them thinking that this was a coincidence. They must have been nearby in the field when we went in to register and I hadn’t noticed them.

Our rooms were on the second floor. They were beautiful and full of antiques. The floors were wooden and highly polished. The walls were covered in antique wallpaper and decorated with black and white photographs of scenes and people from the 19th century. Every room had a fireplace. It felt like I was stepping back in time.

Before turning in I went down into the kitchen to discuss breakfast times with Maria. The kitchen had many built in cupboards with glass fronts. They were filled with canning jars full of fruits and vegetables. I noticed that the stove looked fairly new, and the style was like something found in a restaurant. There was an iron rack hanging over an island with copper pots of various sizes hanging from it.

“Maria,” I asked, “Can we have an early breakfast?”

"Early breakfasts are my specialty," she said. "After all, I cater to fly fishermen just like you," she added.

Before dawn the next morning, Maria made us a wonderful five-course breakfast. She was a really good cook.

Just as it was getting light enough to see, we loaded our car for the day, and sure enough, all six cows came over and watched us again. It was almost as if they were waiting for us. We fished that day near Tylersville on Fishing Creek below the hatchery (N40 59.012 W77 28.395). The water was crystal clear, and we saw many fish swimming in the stream. The trout appeared to be taking something off the surface but we could not determine what it was. They ignored our dry flies. We then switched to nymphs thinking that the trout were taking something just under the surface. After we changed nymph patterns, the trout followed, but only for the first few times we presented them. In the end, the trout would not take our nymphs either. Jennifer and I tried every fly in my box but we were thoroughly skunked. Not even a nibble. That evening we went back to the B&B and the cows gathered again and intently watched us unload our gear.

"Maria," we finally asked, "do these cows always behave this oddly?"

"Oh the girls," Maria laughed. "Yes, they know everyone's business."

The next morning we had another wonderful breakfast, paid our bill and thanked Maria profusely for her hospitality.

"Thank you so much," we said, "For the breakfasts and the lodging."

"You are welcome," she said. "Please come again. I am sorry that you did not catch any trout."

We were the only guests she had the entire weekend. As we packed the car the six girls watched us again. This time we expected them and laughed.

"Goodbye, girls," we shouted and waved from the car as they watched us drive away.

“Auf wiedersehen” I added with a laugh, thinking that maybe the cows understand Pennsylvania Dutch!

On the way back home we stopped just north of State College at the Fly Fisherman’s Paradise fly shop and told them our tale of woe.

“What did we do wrong?” I asked.

“That stretch of Fishing Creek has thousands of trout per mile. It sees tremendous fishing pressure, and the trout are very selective,” said the owner. “You simply didn’t have the right fly. You should have used a #26 cream midge,” he added. So before we left the store, I bought a few to use as a tying pattern.

Although we did not catch anything this trip, we felt slightly patriotic, and that somehow we had struck a blow for democracy.

Over the winter I tied several dozen of these flies. The summer of 2002 found us back in this area for a long weekend, staying at a B&B in Belefonte this time. We fished Pine Creek, Penn’s Creek, and armed with this fly, Fishing Creek to great success. This entire episode reinforced the lesson of calling ahead to local fly shops to obtain stream conditions and other useful information prior to the actual outing. It was doubly satisfying that we had finally conquered Fishing Creek too.



FFF Sweepstakes - Five River Lodge - MT

Here's a chance to win a great 4 day, 5 night trip (for 2!!) at the Five Rivers Lodge located in Dillon, MT. Five Rivers Lodge is located in beautiful southwest Montana. Guests of the Lodge will enjoy miles of wading access on spring creeks, several private ponds, the Ruby, the Beaverhead and the Big Hole Rivers. Five Rivers Lodge offers some of the finest fishing in the U.S. and scenery is incredible!

The Federation of Fly Fishers is sponsoring this great sweepstakes:

- The trip has a retail value of \$5300 (4 days, 5 nights for 2 at the Five Rivers Lodge)
- The winner will also receive a \$1000 travel stipend.

There will be 15 trip winners in all, one from each FFF Council. The FFF Ohio Council only represents the fly fishers in Ohio. Since the Ohio Council is one of the smaller councils in FFF, so you're odds of winning are better in Ohio versus some of the other larger councils. Winners will also be entered in a drawing for a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile. In addition, other prizes will be drawn - rods, reels, and other gear! Tickets are only \$20 = 1 ticket or \$100 = 6 tickets.

Even better - join FFF as a new member for only \$35 (one year single membership) and automatically be entered for the drawing. If you are a current FFF member in good standing and recruit a new FFF member, you will receive a ticket as well.

The club is selling tickets for this sweepstakes. You may purchase tickets from the board of directors or ONLINE. They have a nice setup where you can purchase 1 or the 6 tickets online from their website directly. <http://www.fffgear.com/>

Update on the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) "Five Rivers Sweepstakes" drawing.

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been extended until FFF reaches the 4,000 ticket sold mark. When this target is reached the drawing will take place. The drawing will be held on March 15, 2010. Tickets must be postmarked by February 28th, 2010 to be eligible.



NCCF

Deep Springs Trout Club Outing held

SATURDAY, October 3, 2009

Rob Shields and His Dad Robert Shields caught a nice trout and obvious satisfaction that Rob got this first one after a short review of fishing with the flyrod.



Nice Rob...keep it up! Tight lines and many more just like that one

Despite Economy, Fishing License Sales Up

Sales increase mirrors recreational fishing's heyday in the 1960s and 1970s

ALEXANDRIA, VA (October 20, 2009) – The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) and the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) today announced the publication of a quarterly fishing license sales index to track trends that have an impact on the industry and the entire recreational fishing community.

“Not since the 1970s have we seen a single-year increase in fishing license sales like we’ve seen so far in 2009,” said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman. “Understanding how the needle moves in terms of sportfishing participation is important not just for the sportfishing industry, but for the entire outdoor recreation community. This new license metric will provide everyone with important sales and participation information.”

“Our recent research shows that fishing is the number one gateway activity for introducing children and their families to the outdoors,” said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. “We believe that national campaigns such as Take Me Fishing™ and state-based sportfishing marketing and direct mail are also having a positive effect.”

As of September 1, 2009, state fish and wildlife agencies reported a 7.7 percent positive change in the number of licenses sold year-to-date compared to the same months last year (January - July 2009 vs. January - July 2008). The same states also saw a seven percent increase in the number of licenses sold in July 2009 compared with July 2008.

According to Southwick Associates, the firm analyzing the data, fishing license sales increased at a faster rate in the first quarter of 2009 compared to the second quarter. Increases of 20 percent or more were common in the first quarter. However, a larger volume of sales occurred in the second quarter – the peak period for license sales nationally – and had a greater effect on the year-to-date sales trend than first quarter license sales. After standardizing the July index to contain the same states as previous months, license sales increased nearly a full percentage point over May and June sales. In general, more fishing licenses are sold during the second quarter (April, May, June) than any other time of the year.

“Reasons for the 2009 license sales increases range from a slow economy, which may allow people more time to engage in outdoor activities, to recreational fishing being a lower cost alternative to other forms of recreation,” said Peterson.

“When the index moves by just a tenth of a point, 40,000 anglers have entered or quit sportfishing. Considering the typical angler spends \$176 a year on just fishing tackle alone, and contributes over \$40 annually to conservation via license dollars and excise taxes, a small change in the index represents big changes on the ground,” said Nussman.

Ultimately, anglers, and other sportsmen and women, are the most significant funding source for conservation and recreation in the United States. Through the purchase of fishing licenses and special excise taxes on gear and motorboat fuel, hundreds of millions of anglers’ dollars each year are collected or funneled to states for conservation and recreation. In 2008, \$720 million of these excise taxes were distributed for fisheries management and recreational boating enhancement. In addition, fishing license sales

generated \$600 million in revenue for state fish and wildlife agencies.

State fish and wildlife agencies reporting license sales numbers include Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas and Utah. They were selected on their ability to provide consistent license sales data to illustrate both a national and regional perspective. As more states expand their data reporting capacity, the number of reporting states will increase.

Notes and Considerations:

1) The license sales index is designed as a timely metric of fishing license sales. It is not an exact measure of all fishing license sales nationally.

2) Results are based on a weighted average of trends among participating states. States with larger angler populations have a greater impact on the results than smaller states.

3) Due to confidentiality considerations extended to participating states, license sales trends are not available on a per-state basis.

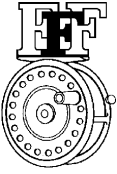
4) This is the first in a series of planned fishing license sales indices. Future indices will be released on a quarterly basis.

North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) membership renewals!

Membership for NCFF involves being current with both NCFF and the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). Membership renewal history is available at our membership check in desk set up at each of our 10 Members meetings.

Below are some points that have been discussed and agreed upon in principal over the over the last few months.

1. Memberships that are renewed January through August will be for the current year.
2. Memberships that are renewed September through December will be applied to the following year.
3. We will promote membership renewals via our Taut Line Newsletter (TLN), monthly members meetings and through our Electronic messaging program.
4. We will encourage renewals from September through November via items #3 above.
5. In December we will send out a mailing consisting of:
 - a. A letter of encouraging NCFF membership renewal plus a NCFF bill to be paid for renewal.
 - b. A List of our meetings for the entire year, i.e., Members meetings, NCFF Board of Directors (BOD) meetings and any special meetings such as our Fly Tying Marathon and Open House, Picnic and Holiday Buffet. This list will also include the location and time of the meetings.
6. As of January 1st following our December mailing all delinquent memberships, either NCFF or the FFF will be dropped from our NCFF Roster and will no longer receive electronic messages from the club until they renew, etc., etc.



The Federation of Fly Fishers



North Coast Fly Fishers, Inc.

Membership Application

All North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFF) members are required to maintain a current membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). The organizations are separate and process renewals independently (NCFF on a calendar year basis and FFF based on initial membership date), but initial applications are processed through NCFF at the address below.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

FFF Membership Number _____

(leave blank if you are a new member)

Club Affiliation – K99446 North Coast Fly Fishers

North Coast Fly Fishers

- Individual -- \$20
- Individual 3 year -- \$50
- Family/Couple -- \$35
- Family 3 year -- \$85
- Youth (under 18, provide birth date) -- FREE
- Disabled Veteran (Provide copy of proof of disability) -- FREE

Federation of Fly Fishers

- Individual -- \$35
- Individual 3 year -- \$85
- Senior (65 or over, provide birth date) -- \$25
- Family (includes spouse & children under 18) -- \$45
- Family 3 year -- \$100
- Youth (under 18, provide proof of age) -- \$15
- Disabled Veteran (Provide copy of proof of disability) -- FREE
- Individual Life (payment plans available, provide birth date) -- \$500
- Couple Life (husband & wife, provide birth dates)-- \$750

Payment

Please make one check for the total amount payable to North Coast Fly Fishers and mail to:

North Coast Fly Fishers, Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 312
Painesville, OH 44077

Rates are subject to change. Please check the NCFF and FFF web sites for current rates and special promotion

2009-2010 NCFE
Board of Directors & Officers

President / Education

Don Van Buren (440) 635-1165

Vice President

Lenny Jagoda (440) 259-5382

Secretary

Tom Warmington (440) 358-9088

Treasurer/ Membership

Paul Blanch (440) 546-0023

Director

Mike Colo (216) 731-4581

Director / Past President

Dick Erickson (216) 991-7450

Director / Programs

Jim Gavacs (330) 562-7073

Director

Tim Rohwer (440) 460-0194

Director / Communications

Debbie Berkebile (440) 812-4447

Director / Outings, Conservation

George Vosmik (440) 333-6133

Director / Expo

Joe Wantz (440) 256-2697

Schedule of Upcoming Events

November 4	Members Meeting	Lake Farmpark <i>6:30-10:00 pm</i>
November 11	Board of Directors	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
December 2	Members/Buffer	St.John Vianney Church 5:30-10:00 pm
December 9	Board of Directors	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
January 6	Members Meeting	Lake Farmpark <i>6:30-10:00 pm</i>
January 13	Board of Directors	Penitentiary Glen 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
<i>January 16</i>	<i>NCFE Expo 2009</i>	<i>Lakeland CC</i> <i>9:00 am-5:00 pm</i>