



The Taut Line

December 2009

Volume 22, Issue 11

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.

NCFF December 2009 Holiday Buffet & Fly Exchange - Map is attached below.

Wednesday, December 2nd 2009 6:00 - 10:00 PM

St. John Vianney Church - Administration Bldg.

Southeast corner of parking lot ~Knights of Columbus Side Door

7575 Bellflower Rd. Mentor, Ohio

Once again the Holiday Season is upon us, and an NCFF Tradition continues! At our annual Holiday Dinner event, we can count on food, fly tying, raffles, NCFF camaraderie, and our *"Holiday Dinner Fly Exchange."*

The Fly Exchange is fun and easy to enter!

1. Simply tie or pick out from your well-stocked fly boxes, six or more flies.
2. Place a note or card with your name inside along with your flies.
3. Gift-wrap the package of flies and bring them to the Dinner.

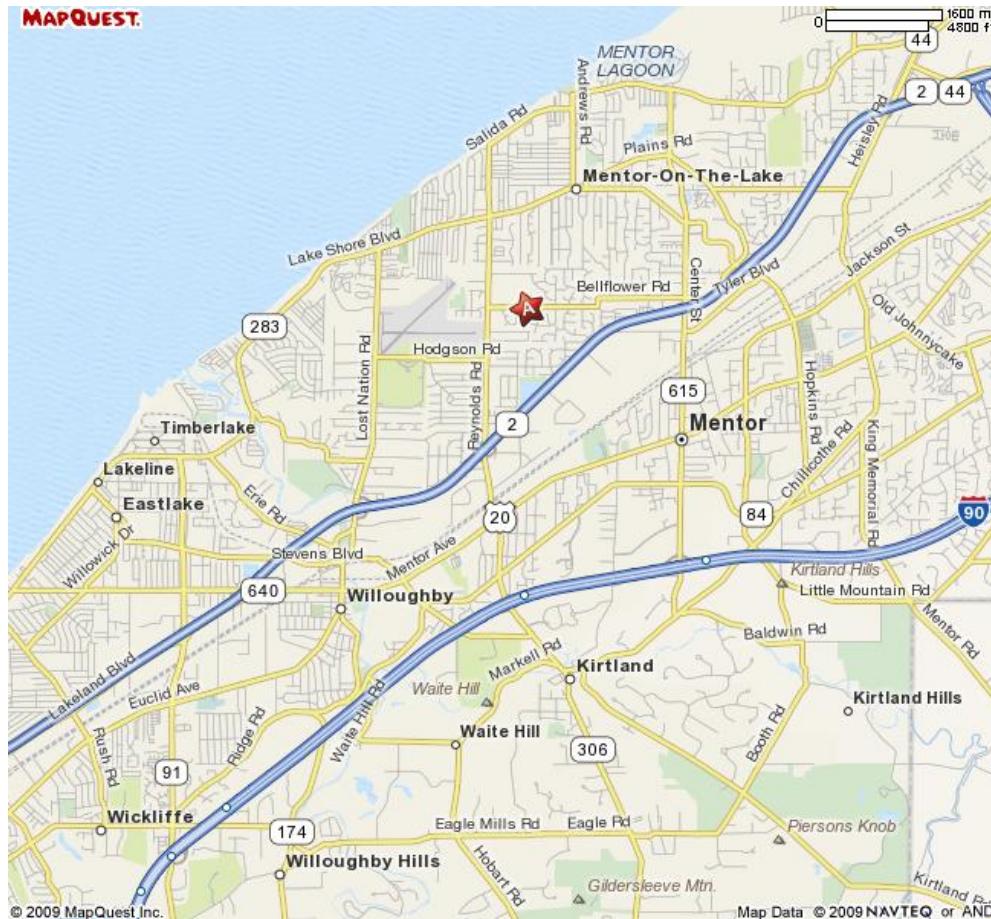
Place them on the table designated for the Fly Exchange and receive a ticket for each entry, which will be drawn randomly throughout the evening. You will receive a ticket for each box of flies that you submit, and receive a box in return. Enter as often as you like.

It's free and it's fun.

- Bring your fly tying gear.
- Bring a dessert.

The club will provide beverages and an assortment of hot main dishes.

Assisting with great gratitude are Andy and Janet Setlock and Adam and Marge Pawlowski. Tom Warmington has taken over the coordination duties from George Shuffert. George has generously given his time in the past to a variety of club activities not to mention coordinating the annual buffet and summer picnic.



EXPO 2010

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.

November Meeting Pictures:



Speaker- Eric Austin & his Classic Flies





Basic Fly Tying - October Meeting



Twilight Catch

by: Bill King

It was late June 1999, and my son Bill (Jr.), my friend Art, and I were fishing Spring Creek near Fisherman's Paradise, Pennsylvania (N40 58.995 W077 28.382). I love fishing with my son, and Art is a good friend and a good fly fisherman, who also happens to be a Presbyterian minister. This combination put some limitations on my vocabulary, not to mention the stories I could tell about the size of the fish that got away. Regardless, each of them was fun to be with and great fishing partners too. On that trip we stayed at a nearby Bed and Breakfast in Bellefonte that catered to fly fishermen. The weather was perfect; lofty cirrus clouds with high temperatures in the lower 70s. We fished that day at two other nearby streams, ending up at Spring Creek after dinner.

On this particular trip we targeted streams in mountain valleys in central Pennsylvania. The mountains in this part of the state are lovely in the summer. They are covered in rich green forests. The ridges extend almost directly north-south with steep sided valleys in between. In some of these valleys run world-class trout streams. At the bottom of the valleys the sun disappears early behind the mountain ridge to the west giving the effect of a long lingering twilight. It was about 9:00PM, a cloudless evening with no wind. The sky overhead was far brighter than the light in the valley which was slowly fading. It was very quiet and peaceful with only the sound of water rushing over small stones to break the silence.

I had just caught a twelve inch brown trout on a #18 Light Cahill that I had tied a few days prior to our trip. The fish put up a fight and I had no net to land him, having lent it to my son earlier in the day. I took him to the shore to take out the fly and release him. This fly closely resembled the tiny, white flies that were congregating over the surface of the water. It wasn't exactly a hatch but there were numerous flies hovering over the stream. The flies were moving very fast in seemingly random patterns. My chewed fly still looked reasonably intact so I decided to keep using it. The other reason I decided to keep using that fly was that the light in the valley was almost gone, and it would have been difficult to tie on a new fly under those conditions. Rather than changing flies, I wanted to spend my remaining time on the stream trying a few more casts before we had to leave.

I carefully waded out into the stream and began casting. No sooner had I started when in mid-cast more than a dozen bats suddenly appeared. They flew very near me swooping after the insects. I thought that the flies were fast, but the bats' speed made the flies look lethargic. I continued to cast and a bat chased after my fly. I was startled at the spectacle of a bat following my cast, and impressed that it could swoop down and quickly close the distance on my speeding fly. The bat veered off at the last possible moment.

“Thank goodness!” I thought, relieved that this bat recognized that the fly wasn’t a meal. Maybe he noticed the fly line or the hook with their radar when he got close enough.

As I continued casting this bat-fly chase happened about a dozen times with the bat pulling out of his dive at the last possible moment.

“I wish the trout were attracted to my flies like these bats were,” was my next thought.

After many aerial chase scenes with no result, I realized that the bats were smart enough not to eat an imitation insect attached to a line. I could safely ignore the bat situation and concentrate on my fishing. There was not much I could do about it anyway. As soon as I relaxed, one bat followed my fly and did not veer off. Astonished, I watched him catch and eat my fly, as if I were a spectator at some professional sports game.

“Oh, Sh--!” I yelled to no one in particular.

I looked around in embarrassment, but Bill and Art were too far away I thought to hear me. Immediately a variety of thoughts skittered through my brain, “Was this bat dumb or nearsighted? Maybe his radar is on the fritz.” But the most pressing question that kept repeating itself was, “What do I do now?”

On impact, the bat bent my rod like a fish strike and I heard the drag clicking. I held on to my rod and instinctively pulled back on it, probably inadvertently setting the hook. I was shocked by what had just happened. The bat was firmly hooked and could not get off, no matter what aerial gymnastics he tried.

Bill, Jr. was several dozen yards away and watched the whole episode from downstream. He heard me shout, and realized that I had caught something because my rod was bent and gyrating wildly, all on its own volition. But it was getting darker by the moment and he couldn’t exactly make out what was going on. When he saw something in the air over the water, he initially thought I had caught a fish that jumped. Then he saw that my rod was behaving very differently than if I had caught a trout, and was very confused.

I held my fly rod nearly straight up and the bat flew up and down, and around in circles, wearing himself out against the line and the pressure of the spring in the rod. I let the bat tire himself out, as if I had been playing a trout, and slowly reeled the line in. Finally, the bat was so tired from fighting to get free he hung limp at the end of my line. I waded to shore. By this time it was pitch dark. I called to Bill and Art.

“Come here and look at what I caught,” I shouted.

I took my flashlight out of my fishing vest and shined it on the bat. Both Art and Bill came close and bent towards the light.

“What *is* that?” they both exclaimed nearly simultaneously.

“It’s a live bat,” I said, holding the line as far as I could from my body.

I explained what had happened and opined that it must have been a dumb bat since the others were smart enough to not eat the fly.

“How are you going to unhook it?” my son asked without offering any suggestions. He has several degrees in mechanical engineering. I would have thought he would have had at least one or two ideas.

“I don’t know.” I responded in a calm tone of voice while mildly panicking inside as the bat was showing signs of recovering from his ordeal.

I hadn’t really thought about how to unhook a bat. I still hadn’t recovered from the shock of catching one. I had once read somewhere that one in every 200 bats was rabid. I didn’t know if this was true or not, but even these odds didn’t seem to be in my favor.

“Don’t bats have fangs or teeth?” I asked, trying to evaluate the problem.

“Not sure,” said Bill.

“Don’t ask me,” said Art. “They don’t teach that stuff in Divinity School,” he added with a laugh.

As we closely watched the bat’s increasing energetic movements we decided that it was better to just cut the line somewhere in middle of the tippit and not put my fingers close to or down the mouth of a bat. I didn’t really need to salvage the fly. I could always tie more, and besides it was already chewed up from the previous fish. I did this while jumping backward. The bat recognized that he was free and fluttered to the ground. Since the bat was still alive when I cut him off, I presumed that after regaining his strength, he eventually flew off. Maybe next time this bat will be a little more choosy in his evening meal selection. Or perhaps I’ll be more careful when casting at dusk near feeding bats.

It was very dark and clear it was time to leave the stream. Using our flashlights, we climbed the bank, single file, in silence, to get to our car. We were contented and tired from a long day of fishing. It was a good day. Each of us had caught quite a few trout. Slowly we took off our vests and waders and started putting our gear away in the trunk of the car.

“Wow, Dad!” Bill exclaimed, breaking the silence. “Does your fishing license cover bats? Is taking a bat with a fishing rod legal in Pennsylvania? Are bats in season? I hope they aren’t an endangered species? Boy, would you be in big trouble.”

Getting into the spirit of the occasion, Art asked, “Did you remember to measure and weigh him? Maybe it was a state species record.”

I knew they were grinning even though it was too dark to see the expressions on their faces. But it wasn't too dark for me to see where this conversation was going. No one was going to talk about the beauty of the mountains and streams we saw, the fish we caught, the camaraderie, or the good times we had. The *only* thing that was going to make the highlight reel of this fishing trip was the bat episode.

While the trout in Spring Creek were wary from the fishing pressure I am sure that there was no pressure on catching bats in this manner. The bat had probably never seen a fly attached to a line before. On the other hand, I had tied this fly myself and it fooled a bat. Upon reflection I finally decided that, all in all, landing a bat was a pretty neat trick, even if my fishing buddies won't let me live it down.

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

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.

Support the Federation of Fly Fishers and You'll be entered to win a 4 day, 5 night trip for 2 people at Five Rivers Lodge in Dillon, MT
www.fiveriverslodge.com

- Each FFF council will draw a winning trip (15 trips) retail value \$5300.00
- Winners will also be entered into a drawing for a trip to Cinco Rios Lodge in Chile
- All winners will receive a \$1000.00 travel stipend
- Other prizes will be drawn - Rods, Reels, and other Gear!
- All new FFF members will be entered in the drawing. Recruit a new member and you'll receive a ticket too!
- Proceeds will benefit FFF clubs, councils, and the national office.

\$20 = 1 ticket or \$100 = 6 tickets.
Winners will be notified by email.

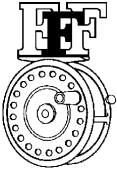
Based on double occupancy, two anglers per guide, and availability. Tips, license and tackle not included. Trip may be taken during the 2009 & 2010 season. A minimum of 4000 tickets must be sold before winners are drawn. Federation of Fly Fishers is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. No purchase necessary, void where prohibited by law.

North Coast Fly Fishers (NCFE) membership renewals!

Membership for NCFE involves being current with both NCFE 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 NCFE membership renewal plus a NCFE bill to be paid for renewal.
 - b. A List of our meetings for the entire year, i.e., Members meetings, NCFE 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 NCFE or the FFF will be dropped from our NCFE 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 (NCF) members are required to maintain a current membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). The organizations are separate and process renewals independently (NCF on a calendar year basis and FFF based on initial membership date), but initial applications are processed through NCF 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 NCF 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

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 9:00 am-5:00 pm</i>