



Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

Wind Knots

April 2007

By Don Corey,
President



As I pen (keyboard) this column, it appears that Ol' Man Winter is starting to finally lose it's grasp on the weather pattern and spring like conditions are starting to emerge. The Penobscot Fly Fishers just finished another Sportsmen Show complete with fly tying and casting demonstrations. Thanks to all the club members who made this event such a great club success.

The club has several activities in the works for the spring and early summer. Plans are in the works to return to Conservation Camp at Greenland Point for another year of teaching fly fishing classes in tying, casting, equipment and safety. We are trying to organize an outing for the participants of the beginners fly tying class to get a chance to test the wonderful flies that they tied in class. Hopefully we can get some club members to show up with boats to help get them on the water. This event will be sometime in June or July at a location to be determined (probably the Penobscot River).

At the March Board of Directors meeting there were 2 proposals made that will be discussed and voted on by the general membership at the April 4 monthly dinner meeting. The proposals involved bringing back 2 events that the club has run in the past, the Fly Tying Symposium (October 2007) and the Cabin Fever Reliever Show (February 2008). The details of these proposals are included in this newsletter.

Beginning with the April meeting, we will try to have a fly tyer tying before each dinner meeting. This month yours truly, Don Corey, will be tying saltwater flies, Gartside Gurglers and possibly a Surf Candy or 2. We are going to try to get started at 5.

Advanced Fly Tying

There will be an advanced fly tying course at the world famous Brewer Auditorium on Sunday, April 15, 2007. The day will be divided into 2 sessions. The morning session will feature David Klausmeyer, Fly Tyer magazine Editor, photographer, and fly tyer extraordinaire. David will be instructing Oliver Edwards trout flies. Award winning tyer, Selene Dumaine will be hosting the afternoon session. Selene will have a short presentation on the history of streamers in the Rangely Lakes. Then she will demonstrate tying a streamer in her hands (no vise) and then students will tie a couple of traditional streamers. This should be a great day of tying, hopefully with many more to follow. All materials will be provided and students should bring their own tying equipment. All for the low price of \$20. For more information visit our website at www.penobscotflyfishers.com or email don@annikarodandfly.com.

In Memorium

William (Smitty, Billy) Smith died March 27. Billy was a founding member of Penobscot Fly Fishers. He taught in our early fly tying classes and participated in our first Fly Tying Symposium. Billy and his band provided the club with lively musical entertainment at early club potluck suppers. He was an exceptional fly tyer, as well as Maine Guide, musician and carpenter. Billy is survived by

his children: Eben, Emily, and Erin and his wife and friend Lori.

Fly Tying Symposium 2007

At the March 2007 Board of Directors meeting Don Corey presented a proposal from the Cabin Fever Reliever committee to re-instate/resurrect the Fly Tying Symposium as a Penobscot Fly Fishers sponsored event. The tentative date would be Sunday, October 14, 2007 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Brewer Auditorium in Brewer Maine. The Symposium, as in years past, would be an exhibition fly tying event. Tyers would be invited from all over Maine, New England and Atlantic Canada to participate. A Symposium committee would be set up to determine the list of invitees. A club table or two would be available for any club members to sign up to tie throughout the day 2-3 hour blocks.

Many ideas have been discussed including, but not limited to:

- Special tying classes in the conference room throughout the day
- Speakers in the conference room
- Showcase some tyers on a big screen/projector for 20 – 30 minute periods
- Have each tyer donate 1 or more flies to be included in fly boxes to be used as raffle items
- Only tyers, no rod builders, net builders, etc
- Concession stand run by the club selling food/beverage (possibly chili, chop suey or stew at lunch)
- No charge for tyers
- No charge for admission

In the past, this event has been popular with the tyers as well those that attended. It is a wonderful way to showcase talented tyers in a central location.

There will be a discussion regarding this event at the April monthly dinner meeting with a vote by the general membership as to whether the event should become a club sponsored event.

April Dinner Meeting Wednesday, April 4, 2007

The April monthly dinner meeting will be held on

Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer beginning at 6 pm. The speaker will be Gayle Zydlewski is a Research Assistant Professor at UMO.f Gayle will be speaking about sturgeon in the Penobscot River.

May Dinner Meeting Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Wed. May 2nd: Steve Wilson, DIF&W Superintendent of Hatcheries, Maine's Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program.

CLUB GARMENTS

One way to show "pride in membership" and to advertise our club is to wear shirts, jackets and hats with our logo on it at meetings and special events. There are many items available. These are the most popular.

- Denim Shirts priced according to size - \$16-\$30.
- Knitted Sport Shirts in blue, gray and green - \$20.
- Vests in blue and green - \$17
- Hats - \$10
- Hooded Pullover Sweatshirts - \$16 - \$20.

Keep in mind that our supplier has a minimum order requirement of 6 items. Don't be shy, get on the list. I have on hand two dark blue denim shirts, size XL and size XXXL for the bargain price of \$16. To place an order either call me, Bob Blatz, at 525 4410 or email me at bblatz@acadia.net.

RUMORS, etc.

A club fishing tournament is in the works for the latter part of June. Mike Curtis and John Lent are in charge. We will post new information as we receive the news.

Marcus Hale wishes to thank all club members who were able to visit him during his recent hospital stay.

Talk of fishing trips has begun. If you have ideas for club outings please bring them to the April meeting. Locations mentioned to date include the Penobscot from Big Eddy to Brewer, Debouille Preserve, Pulaski River, and so on.

FLY OF THE MONTH

The patterns are coming from a book written by Bob Church called "The International Guide to Trout Flies". The book was published in Great Britain in 1987. Some of the materials may sound a little different than what you are used to tying with.

The first set of eight flies are by Stuart Billam. Here is a little background on Mr. Billam by Bob Church.

Stuart is landlord of the Chequers inn at Stapleford, Nottingham. He is one of the best amateur fly-dressers I know, and some of his original patterns really take some beating. A fine angler, his catches from reservoirs are well known from his articles in Trout Fisherman. What isn't so widely known is that he has taken sea trout of 10 lbs while drifting loch-style in Scotland and many salmon to more than 20 lbs.

2) STU'S SEDGE

Sedges are not, as most anglers seem to think, huge flies. I occasionally use a size 10 hook, but only in a big wave. I tie the tails slightly longer than average, as this seems to give the fly a more balanced look. Partridge is an extremely mobile hackle when wet, blending over the winds and a palmered hackle, giving the appearance of a bedraggled, drowned sedge. It is at this stage that sedges are eaten by the trout. A bright emerald-green body seems more successful than olive green.

DRESSING

Hook: Size 12 or 14 Partridge
Sproat
Tying Silk: Black
Body: Orange, buff, black or green seal's fur according to the colour of the sedge
Ribbing: Fine copper wire

Wings: Mallard or teal wing feathers tied up instead of down as is usual with wet flies
Hackle: A full collar hackle in front of the wings of two turns of brown partridge hackle
Head: Black varnish.



Cabin Fever Reliever Revived!!!!

Since we lost the sponsorship of Old Town Canoe and the use of the YMCA in Old Town we, the cabin fever committee, have been looking for a way to resurrect the very successful Cabin Fever show. We looked for new sponsors and new locations with mixed success. We talked about ways to revamp the show from expanding to a large commercial show to limiting it to one day. After much thought and discussion we came up with a plan of action and a recommendation which will need your review and approval. It became obvious to us that we were not going to be able to get an outside sponsor. Downsizing or a large scale expansion of the show did not seem feasible nor in keeping with the spirit of the show. I guess the old saying "if it ain't broke don't fix it" applies. The recommendation to club membership is that we sponsor the show ourselves and that we make changes necessary to provide funding for the shows success into the future.

First and foremost the show will continue to have the vision of: "Promoting traditional Maine outdoor activities and crafts through education and demonstration. It will continue to be free to the public to attend. The venue will move to the "World Famous Brewer Auditorium". We found this location to be extremely well suited to fit our needs and even to allow for some expansion of the shows activities. It is reasonably priced, void of many of the restrictions that we had at the YMCA and the people are eager to work with us to make the show a success.

To fund the show we will use a combination of mechanisms. We will have a tiered system of reasonable charges to the exhibitors, we will raffle off a canoe, we will run the concession at the show and we will have a program brochure for which we will sell advertising. We have developed a budget of expenses and revenues and we will be presenting that at the April meeting. We will also provide more information as to the show and answer any questions you may have. We are in hopes all the members will come and express their opinions, offer advice and be a part of an even better and more successful Cabin Fever Reliever.

Thank you,

Ernest M. MacDonald

Co-chair Cabin Fever Reliever committee