



# Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

## Wind Knots May 2006

*Don Corey  
President*



With with blanket of snow exiting early, area anglers expected earlier than normal spring fishing conditions. That that hasn't been the case in many of our favor haunts. Though ice-out occurred earlier than usual in many lake and ponds, the water temperatures have been slow to rise. Cool nights are keeping the temperatures down but the sun is getting higher in the sky and the days are getting warmer, so the water is bound to warm over the next few weeks.

Trips to Brewer Lake have found water temperatures in the mid to high 40's. Apparently the fish are resting comfortably near the lake bottom in their Barcoloungers watching ESPN fishing shows. A recent outing to the Union River found similar water temperatures in the early morning before climbing to the low 50's by noon. Joe Beaulieu tricked a nice fat 12" brookie into inhaling one of his secret bead-head leech patterns. Future son-in-law Ryan Haulk also caught his first fly rod squaretail from the same spot in the river. It was beautiful day, spending time with family and friends.

On Patriot's Day, I wrote another chapter in the my epic novel, [In Search of My First Maine Fly Rod Northern Pike](#). Though I came up empty, I experienced a very interesting day on Great Pond in Belgrade with fishing buddy Scott Haradon. We got on the water a little after 8 am. Water temperatures hovered around 45 degrees. We motored to a sheltered cove where we had seen people fishing on prior expeditions. After casts too numerous to count, Scott finally enticed a rogue 20+ inch pike to the boat around

mid-day. Then the mood of the day changed.

The afternoon provided me one of the most memorable days on the water in a long time. We explored some streams that fed the lake. Many were less than 20 feet wide and had 12 inches of water or less. Our interest was piqued when we heard the first splash. It sounded like someone dropped a cement block in the water. The pike seemed to be everywhere, splashing, rolling, and exposing their dorsal fin. At times they would be so close to shore that their entire back was visible. We could see them but they wouldn't move to anything that we cast their way. They apparently had one thing on their mind and it wasn't eating "green frog" divers with rubber legs, umm, umm. The annual spawning ritual was apparently in full swing. At times they were right beside the boat, in 12 inches of water. The sun glistened off their battle-scarred backs, but flies/poppers dangled on their noses didn't even warrant a look. They would lay motionless until we got too close, then they would disappear leaving a cloud of silty water in their wake. It was an educational experience to say the least. I will continue my quest for the elusive water wolf.

Over the past couple issues of **Wind Knots** I have talked about line and rod/reel maintenance. This month I would like to talk about the vessels in your flotilla. Let's start with inflatables. If you left your belly boat or individual pontoon boat completely inflated after last season, better take a few mintues to check them out. While surfing the net, I read that a little baby powder between the air-filled bladder and the case holding the bladder is a good idea to help reduce rubbing/chaffing. Also check that the air pressure matches the manufacturers suggested level. Seams that may have been stretched over the winter need to be examined. If the air-bladder was over inflated during the winter it could have put undo pressure on the seams, causing them to burst.

Now let's move to canoes and kayaks. They usually winter well, stored inside or out. A quick check of the

seats and thwarts will reveal any areas that need attention. Make sure you have a spare paddle lashed under the seats in case of emergency. A non-wood paddle is a good choice as it won't weather when exposed to the elements.

Motorized boats require some additional pre-season checks. First on the agenda is the gear oil level in the lower unit. If there was any water in it from last year, it is possible that the water froze and cracked the lower unit. Changing the lower unit oil is a good thing to do each fall. It is also a good idea to fire up your motor in the yard before venturing out on your maiden voyage. Put water muffs on your motor or put it in a barrel of water and fire it up. If you didn't do it in the fall, a new set of plugs is another good thing to do as part of your yearly maintenance.

While the motor is idling, check that water is pumping out the back, if it isn't you aren't cooling your motor. Shut it off and have it checked by a qualified mechanic.

While the motor is idling, look over your life jackets, check for tears and wear. They should not be left out in the sun as the fabric will break down over time. If you have an inflatable suspender-type pfd, check it out and blow it up manually to ensure it is working properly.

Now get that boat in the water and have some fun!

## May Dinner Meeting

**Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

The speaker for the May 3, 2006 dinner meeting will be Dr. Joan Trial, Senior Biologist with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission. Dr. Trial's presentation is titled "**Penobscot River Atlantic Salmon Fishing: Risk and Opportunity 2006**". For more information about the MASC visit [www.maine.gov/asc/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/asc/index.shtml).

Davey Ferris has again agreed to be available for casting instruction. He will be available at 5 pm before the meeting in the parking lot to help people "polish" their casting skills. If you haven't spent a little time casting with Davey, it is worth it! Folks start gathering for the meeting at the Coach House restaurant in Brewer around 6 pm.

## June Dinner Meeting

**Wednesday, June 7, 2006**

The speaker for the June 7<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting has not been announced. Folks start gathering at the Coach House restaurant in Brewer around 6 pm.

## The Trading Post

Items for sale or trade



This is a 15' Penobscot Peapod. It is estimated that it was built about 1900 in the Brewer/Eddington area probably by a man named Karl Anderson. It was first owned by Otto Anderson who was a paddle make and ran executive at Merrill Bank. Walter Colburn, the originator of the Colburn Special Atlantic salmon fly, later owned the boat for many years and used it on the Narraguagus River below the Cable Pool and the Penobscot River fishing for Atlantic salmon. Edwin Colburn obtained the Peapod from his grandfather. The boat was neglected later in life and, when obtained by Gary Arsenault it was in very sad shape. Gary then passed it on to Fred Kircheis, the current owner, who completely restored it. The boat now has several new ribs, new stems, decks, gunnels, seats, and canvas. It is complete with original bronze "patented" oarlocks and hand crafted oars. Field testing shows the craft to be highly responsive to the oars and a joy to row. It can be seen at 300 Horseback Road, Carmel. Call (848-3797) or e-mail ([fred.kircheis@adelphia.net](mailto:fred.kircheis@adelphia.net)) Fred for additional information or for an appointment to see the boat and check it out for yourself.

## PFF April/May Calendar

- Apr 30 Advanced Fly Tying with Dan Legere  
Wagner Middle School, 8:30 am  
Spots still available!!! 843-5634 for info
- May 3 Wednesday, monthly dinner meeting  
Coach House Restaurant, 6 pm  
Speaker: Dr. Joan Trial, Senior Biologist with the  
Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission  
"Penobscot River Atlantic Salmon Fishing: Risk  
and Opportunity 2006"
- May 17 Wednesday, monthly Directors meeting  
Coach House Restaurant, 6 pm

## PFF June Calendar

- Jun 7 Wednesday, monthly dinner meeting  
Coach House Restaurant, 6 pm  
Speaker: TBA
- Jun 21 Wednesday, monthly Directors meeting  
Coach House Restaurant, 6 pm

### Advanced Fly Tying Class with Dan Legere

Openings still available!!

[www.penobscotflyfishers.com/flytying.html](http://www.penobscotflyfishers.com/flytying.html)  
Maine Guide Fly Shop owner and Master Maine Guide Dan Legere will be teaching a one day intermediate/advanced fly tying class on Sunday, April 30, 2006 at the Wagner Middle School in Winterport. There are still a few openings available for member or non-members. Please email Don Corey to enroll in the class at [don@annikarodandfly.com](mailto:don@annikarodandfly.com) or call him at 843-5634.

Dan will be providing all the materials and hooks for the day. Students should plan to bring their own vise, tools and some thread. You may also want to bring a light and cord. Cost for the class including materials is \$15 (members) or \$20 for non-members, a bargain at any price!

The plan for the day is as follows:

Arrive between 8 and 8:15 am  
Morning session 8:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Brown bag lunch 12:30 pm – 1 pm (sandwiches can be ordered)  
Afternoon session 1 pm – 5 pm

The list of flies that Dan is planning on tying are:  
Grey Ghost, Thunder Creek, Stone Fly, Bead Head Prince Nymph, Muddler Minnow, White Wulff, Lefty's Deceiver, Whistler, Sand Eel and a slider fly.

## Secretary's Report April 2006

**Officers present:** Don Corey Joe Beaulieu, Marcus Hale, John Lent

**Board members present:** Dan Hodgins, Bob Blatz, Ernie MacDonald, Ed Bruno

**Secretary's Report:** no report no meeting in March  
**Treasures Report:** accepted as written

**Advanced fly tying:** 12 people have signed up. Remaining spots will go out to general public

**Maine Youth Fish and Game fishing day:** It will be held on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Call Ed Bruno's office to sign up for class before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Must have an adult with them in order to attend.

**Business Membership:** It was suggested that we add a business membership to our by-laws. This was discussed and it was suggested that we let the by-laws committee look into this idea.

**Greenland Point:** Talked about how to support them and how much support to give them. We have enough people support to do tying and casting on Thursdays this summer. Marcus will again handle the program. Motion made to move forward with teaching at Greenland point this summer, seconded and passed by all present. Financial support in the form of a scholarship, price of sending a student there for a week. Motion was made that we allocate \$400.00 for scholarship money for them to us as they see fit, be it for 1 full scholarship or divided among 14. Seconded and passed by all.

**The issue of insurance** was brought up again by Don Corey. After some discussion John Lent stated that he would contact FFF about the cost and report back.

**Lobster Cook out at the Roy's:** This will be held on Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>. This will take the place of our August dinner meeting. More information to come.

**Yard Sale:** Ernie asked if we were going to hold a yard sale this year. After some discussion it was decided not to have a yard sale.

**New Fly Rods:** Ed Bruno talked about getting new fly rods. It was decided that we needed to find out how many we have first and go from there.

We were asked to do a beginning fly fishing /tying seminar at the Bangor Public library on June 28<sup>th</sup> at noon time. After some discussion it was thought to be a great idea.

Adjourned at 7:30pm