



Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

Wind Knots

May 2007

Don Corey, President



As I am sure everyone is aware, the weather switch got thrown last week and we have moved from winter to summer with little or no transition. Over the next few days/weeks, the warm temperatures and April winds will force the last remaining ice on our lakes and ponds to disappear into the depths. Then anglers will be able to get out and troll their favorite streamers, a true New England tradition. Be sure to exercise extreme caution at this time of year as the water is still very cold.

Before your setting out on your first fishing excursion be sure to check a few things in your boat. It is always a good idea to check your lower unit for the proper level of oil. If the level is high, it may be a sign that water has gotten into your lower unit. If so, drain and re-fill before running your motor. It is always a good idea to run your motor in a barrel of water or hook it up to your hose and let it run for several minutes to be sure that your water pump is working. You should see a steady stream of water exiting the back of the motor while it is idling. Nothing is more frustrating than to launch your boat for that first fishing trip and then experience a malfunction.

This is also a good time to check your life jackets to be sure they are in good condition. Take some time to look over your lines and replace any that show signs of wear. Always cutout any knots and retie. Take the spools off from your reels and clean and grease the inside.

Our club has a couple of activities in the next few weeks. On Tuesday, May 8 we will be participating in an Atlantic Salmon fry release in Bradley. Eldest daughter Erika's Alton classroom will be releasing their small salmon into Great Works Stream. They have had a salmon tank in their room since January and have observed the process from eggs to fry. Joan Trial will be joining us to give a little talk

about the Atlantic Salmon life cycle and entomology (bugs). The club will be cooking hot dogs for the kids. The children will be arriving around 10 am and we should be done shortly after noon. We could use 3 or 4 volunteers to help with this project and a grill. If you are able to help please contact Don at 843-5634 for more details.

On Wednesday, May 16 we will be participating in a Community of Caring day at State Street School in Brewer from noon - 2 pm. We will be doing a little casting and fly tying instruction. We did this event last year and everyone enjoyed the event. Anyone that is available to help, please contact Don at 843-5634. Remember, you don't need to be an expert tyer or caster, you only need to know a little more than the students!

May Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The May monthly dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer beginning at 6 pm. The speaker will be Steve Wilson DIF&W Superintendent of Hatcheries, speaking on Maine's Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program. .

June Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Wed. June 6, 2007 : Charlie Todd DIF&W biologist presents 'Maine's Bald Eagles'.

RUMORS, etc.

A club fishing tournament is in the works for June 30, rain date July 7. Mike Curtis and John Lent are in charge.

Talk of fishing trips has begun. A successful opening day trip was had by club members Jim Snow, Ron Landry and John Wyman. They all caught trout in the Moosehead Lake vicinity. Later in the day they directed Dave Klausmeyer to the spot. He also caught trout. Note they all released their trout, as the law required.

FLY OF THE MONTH



The recipe for this month's fly was taken from "The Art of Tying the Dry Fly" by Skip Morris

THE PARADRAKE

Skip Morris says that the first time he saw a fly called a "Paradrake" was the Swisher-Richards pattern designed to imitate big mayflies such as the western gray drake and both the eastern and western green drakes. The Paradrake described here was made popular by Mike Lawson; it and similar variations are the Paradrakes you will see most often in catalogs and along trout rivers.

Here are a few pointers for tying the Paradrake: When you fold back the elk hair to form the body, start by pushing your finger straight into the hair, in line with the shank, to flare the hair away from the eye. Then pull the hair to both sides of the hook, and back around both sides of the wing. Finally, as you draw it back for the forming of the body, stroke the hair a time or two to even the tension throughout the hairs. When you reach the hair extension with the thread, hold the tips of the hair in one hand (the left hand for right-handers and vice versa) and work the thread with the other; pass the bobbin behind the vice each time, and then hold the thread with the little finger of the hand holding the hair extension, and pull each thread turn snug (not tight) before adding the next.

The Brown Drake Paradrake imitates the big brown drake, which is distributed across America. Brown Drakes prefer lazy currents and still waters and hatch at twilight from May through July with peak activity usually occurring sometime in the first two weeks of June.

BROWN DRAKE PARADRAKE

HOOK	Standard dry fly, size 12 , 10
THREAD	Black 3/0
TAIL	Natural dark moose body
WING	Natural tan elk hair
BODY	Natural tan-brown hair

HACKLE

Grizzly dyed yellow (as this is an unusual hackle, you can substitute a regular grizzly or light-brown hackle) one size larger than normal (size-12 hook takes size-10 hackle).

SUMMER CAMPS

Camp Natarswi, the Girl Scout Camp, has requested we provide the same program that Greenland Point Center receives. The Directors approved the plan. After discussion with Pam, the camp leader, the program will start the first week of July and end the week of August 8th. We will teach at Camp Natarswi on Tuesdays, 10-12 and 1-2.

Greenland Point Center will be Thursdays at the same times. Camp runs June 24 through August 8 with no camp the week of the 4th.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

If you can help on any of the dates at either camp please call Marcus at 843-7405. He says only a willingness to help is needed – training will be provided.

PFF Board of Director's meeting 4/18/07

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Don Corey, Present were Treas. Marcus Hale, President Don Corey, and officers and Directors, Alan Gray, Ron Landry, Jim Snow, Mike Curtis, Joe Beaulieu, Bob Blatz and Ernie MacDonald. Excused were Secretary John Lent and Director Dan Hodgins. Ernie MacDonald was appointed acting secretary. Since the Secretary was absent the President dispensed with the reading of the previous minutes. The treasurer reported that we had \$533.75 in the checking account and \$5,330.38 in savings for a total of \$5,864.13. The president reported that he had received a donation from Mary Montville for \$100 in memory of her husband Fran.

Old Business

It was noted that Marcus has taken over the responsibility for the newsletter and any information needs to be submitted to him.

Advanced Fly Tying: The President expressed his disappointment with the failure of Selene Dumaine to show up for the tying. He was especially concerned as to the lateness of the notification by Ms. Dumaine. He indicated he would be sending a letter to her to express our disappointment in her handling of the situation. We will again be holding tying and casting demonstrations at the Greenland Point Conservation Camp. Marcus will

be posting a notice in the newsletter for those wishing to participate.

President Corey informed everyone as to the Alton Elementary Egg Salmon release and he will be inserting a notice in the newsletter for those wishing to participate.

The second annual Fly Fishing Tournament is tentatively set for 6/30/07 with a rain date of 7/7/07 on the Penobscot River. Mike Curtis and John Lent are co-chairs on this and they will be getting additional details shortly.

President Corey indicated we will be hosting a day on the water for those people who participated in our Beginners Fly tying class. The tentatively date is set for 6/3/07 in Lincoln on the Penobscot and will be coordinated by Mr. Corey. He will be looking for members with boats that would like to initiate some of these new tiers.

Cabin Fever is up and running with a meeting of the committee set for 4/19/07 to discuss the issues and to begin moving it forward. The Fly tying symposium will be briefly discussed and it is anticipated that a separate committee will be formed to champion that show.

New Business

Marcus Hale discussed creating the same tying and casting program carried on at Greenland Point Conservation for the Girl Scouts at camp Natarswi in Baxter State Park. The course would be 1 day a week for 6 weeks.

There was much discussion by a number of members that we could be spreading ourselves to thin. There was also discussion as to the need for additional vices, including some rotary vices for some type of advanced tying courses. After much discussion a motion by Mike Curtis and seconded by Marcus Hale was made for "A tying and casting program of 1 day a week for 6 weeks for the girl scouts with a gas reimbursement fund of \$20 a car up to \$60/wk total with Marcus's review and approval. Passage was unanimous.

President Corey suggested that we look at our fly tying courses. He thought we should look at a course fee that includes a charge for some tools and materials. The tools and materials would go with the participants and they would be responsible to bring them to each class. This would not include vices. Some discussion was held and many appeared to be in agreement. It is anticipated more detail discussion will be carried on before classes for the next season. No further items were discussed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Corey, second Curtis. All in favor