



Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

April 2008

President's Notes

I would like to thank the club members for their volunteer efforts at the Cabin Fever event. The over all involvement under Ernie MacDonald's leadership was one of the best events ever by the club. When you receive the positive responses that the event brought out from the public that puts our club in good standing with the outdoor sporting community.

The fly tying booth at the Sportsman's Show was visited by many boys and girls. About 170 flies were tied by the youngsters under the guidance of Bob Blatz, Joe Bertolaccini, Hank Metcalf, Kip Bristol, Alan Gray and Richard McGuckin. The fly casting demo at the pool was also very well done by MC Don Corey and casters Ernie MacDonald, Joe Beaulieu with Malcolm Coulter controlling the stern of the canoe. The PA system obtained by club technician Hank Metcalf for the event was very useful.

It hard to believe that a full eight weeks of the fly tying classes and three weeks of advance classes are over. Many cold Thursday evenings were spent teaching beginners and those wishing to refresh techniques. A number of new members joined from the classes. We hope to see them at the monthly meetings and invite their input to the clubs activities and social events.

At the Sportsmen Show, Julie Johnston donated 2 fly boxes with a dozen flies in each to the club. Thanks Julie!

Alan Gray, President

April 2 Dinner Meeting

The regularly scheduled dinner meeting on Wednesday, April 2 will be held at the Coach House Restaurant. Maine Secretary of State, co-founder of the Maine Youth Fish and Game Association #1, outdoor writer and talk show personality Matt Dunlap is our speaker.

Special at April's Meeting

Despite the cool temperatures, wind permitting, Hank Metcalf will be demonstrating and teaching the pick up and lay down cast in the parking lot before the April meeting. This is a good opportunity to shake off winter for experienced casters and something those interested

in learning about fly fishing – it is the basic cast upon which almost all casts start from.

May 7 Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, May 7 is the date of our next dinner meeting at the Coach House Restaurant. The speaker for the meeting will be Forrest Bonney discussing brook trout in Maine.

Thank You

Ernie MacDonald and Bob Blatz thank all the people who helped make the Cabin Fever Reliever and the Kid's Tying at the Sportsman Show such a success. Thank you!

Rumors, etc.

Final planning for the April 22 (wind or rain date April 29) trolling outing will take place at the dinner meeting. Those with boats and no crew should find fishermen with no boat to fish with.

Dave Ferris will be back in Maine this summer. While in Florida his club has taught 31 students at the Boys and Girls Club about fly fishing using a program similar to our summer camp curriculum.

There will be a hearty salmon fisherman's breakfast at the Penobscot Salmon Club, Brewer on May 3 from 6 am to 10 am.

Congressman Tom Allen will hold a Sportsmen's Gathering at the Penobscot County Conservation Association on Main St. in Brewer on Sunday April 6, 2008 from 3 to 5 pm. For more information contact Dick Ruhlin at 989-7333 or Bucky Owen at 866-4892.

A note from the Secretary

John would like anyone with a changed or new e-mail account to send him the address at pbunyan@verizon.net. This reduces our newsletter costs and aids communication. Thank you for your help. This will allow a direct e-mail of the newsletter and an e-mail reminder of the meetings.

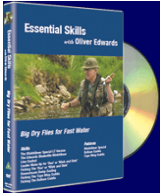
Book Review – Trolling Flies for Trout and Salmon

If you can find a copy of the out of print Trolling Flies for Trout and Salmon by Dick Stewart and Bob Leeman, I recommend you read it. This book has been out of print for several years and is selling at exorbitant prices in the used book market. Perhaps an updated edition will be

written. Besides tying technique and patterns, the book contains a good deal of information on trolling techniques and equipment.

Another source book for trolling flies is Smelt Fly Patterns by Donald A. Wilson with fly plates by Jim Schollmeyer. This has numerous smelt patterns and some information on trolling. This book is currently available on the market – Van Raymond's had a copy or two last time I was there..

From the club video library - Essential Skills with Oliver Edwards Big Dry Flies for Fast Water



We as a club are very fortunate to have had several great videos and DVD's donated to the club. One such video is essential skills with Oliver Edwards, Big Dry Flies for Fast Water. In this DVD our friend from across the pond spends the better part of 2 hrs showing us how to tie and fish some of his favorite flies. The video is broken into 2 parts one on fishing and one on tying. In the fishing section we actually go fishing with Oliver. He is very helpful, always talking and giving little pieces of wisdom. He catches several fish and one thing to notice is he refers to the fish by weight not by length. In the tying section he also talks continually and shares his experience. Lots of great stories and his tying techniques are interesting. Notice how he wraps the thread. So at the meeting borrow this video and take a little time on a chilly Sunday afternoon enjoying the fly bench and streamside with Oliver.

Fly Tier of the Month Annie Coburn

Annie Coburn of Kineo Flies at 404 Pritham Avenue in Greenville Junction – on the left in town headed towards the East Outlet, or substitute, will be tying a few streamers, including the Pink Floyd. A member of the Penobscot Fly Fishers, Annie was at the tying symposium, the Cabin Fever Reliever and has 25 years of tying experience. Check out the website daughter Amelia created at kineoflies.com. Talent knows no age.

Fly of the Month – Pink Floyd

THREAD: Black 6/0

HOOK: 4x or longer streamer size 8

BODY: Pink floss or wool

RIB: Silver or gold tinsel

UNDERBELLY: Pink bucktail

THROAT: Yellow hackle

WING: Peacock herl over which is gray marabou. On each side of the marabou is a single strip of holographic tinsel.

CHEEK: Silver pheasant with optional jungle cock

It is believed this fly was created by Ian Cameron. It has a strong following on the East Outlet.

Advanced Fly Tying

The club held Advanced Fly Tying classes for 3 weeks in

March for club members. The first week, Don Corey demonstrated tandem trolling streamers and a bucktail Thunder Creek.

Week 2 showcased commercial tyer Ron McKusick from Corinna. Ron tied an exquisite extended body May fly, an Adams and a Royal Wulff. Though Ron indicated streamers are "his thing", his dries were beautiful.

Week 3 was saltwater week. Joe Beaulieu tied a Lefty's Deceiver and Mike Curtis tied one of Bob Popovic's Surf Candy.

Everyone in attendance had a good time and hopefully we will be able to do it again. Thanks to all that helped with this program.

Primer on Trolling

First, thank you to all who helped on this project. I received so much input, the following information is limited to spring trolling when the fish are near (within 15') or on the surface chasing smelts or each other. Trolling flies can be effective all season, perhaps more on that in an upcoming newsletter.

Trolling is not considered fly fishing under state fish and game laws. No trolling in fly fishing only waters. Many people use live or dead smelts or lures like mooselook wobblers when trolling with a fly rod. It works.

Equipment starts with a fly rod, reel, and line. Early season fish could be on top, where a six to nine weight trolled with a floating line would be fine. Some people suggest using a rod that is not your favorite or not in good condition as many accidents with rods have occurred in boats. There should be at least 100 yards of 20# backing, the line, and 8 to 30 feet of leader material. Flies suggested were gray ghost, black ghost, Joe's smelt, nine-three, AA Special and pink lady in single hook or tandem styles. Be sure to sharpen the hooks prior to using the fly. Twitching the rod tip or even short jerks of the rod impart additional action to the fly. Moving the boat in long S-curves can induce strikes on the swing.

A good rod holder – like the Downeast rod holder built in Maine - allows drinking hot beverages or steering the boat while trolling. A boat landing net in good condition helps in landing the fish for hook removal. Some suggest a fish finder to aid in locating fish and a GPS to remember where you found the fish. They can also be used to determine and help regulate trolling speed. A map of the lake including depths can be helpful. Try trolling around points, close to shore, and around sandbars.

As the water warms in the spring, the fish move deeper. To get the fly down a foot or two, switch to a sinking line. If fish are below the surface up to fifteen feet, try using lead core line. You can use lead core line on the larger Pflueger reels.

Remember to dress warmer than you think you need to and bring something to break the wind. Layering clothes is never a bad idea. Bring something hot to drink. Don't forget sunglasses and even sunscreen. Fingerless gloves can reduce the chance of cold hands. Don't forget a hat.

Good luck and tight lines.

Board of Directors' Minutes

Penobscot Fly Fishers

Secretary's report March 2008

Present: Don Corey, Ernie MacDonald, John Weinmann, Hank Metcalf, Dan Hodgins, Alan Gray, John Lent

Treasures Report: Checking \$1402.28 Savings \$5257.15
Accepted by all

CFR Ernie MacDonald chair said that all but one exhibitor expressed interest in returning. Comments very positive. CFR committee will meet to review and make adjustments as needed. Woody Higgins (PCCA/Greenland Point) could donate an Old Town Canoe for raffle next year, can pickup in summer because of our activities with them. Need to decide soon if club is going to do CFR again next year. Will discuss at April board meeting, then bring to the membership in May.

Investments: putting an amount of money into a short term CD.

Accuracy of membership discussed. How to make sure the membership status is accurate? List and money Procedure PFF/FFF dual memberships. Applications and dues will now be paid to Treasurer. He will give a receipt to member then give info to secretary this will help with the membership list accuracy. By- laws state Secretary will keep membership list.

Membership committee will make calls to lapsed members. Annual invoicing and bills will come from treasurer. Name tags to facilitate comfort at meetings.

Sportsman Show, positive feed back. About 170 kids tied, casting went well.

Donation request Bud Farwell requested \$100.00 for Penobscot River Restoration Motion made by Don, 2nd by Ernie after much discussion about setting a president, political nature, it was decide that we put our main effort to education rather than conservation at this time. Call to question voted 8-0 against motion.

Motion made by Don to donate \$25.00 to Bangor Nature Club for use of the PA system, 2nd by John Weinmann passed by all.

Alan Gray will send a letter to Julie Johnston a letter thanking her for her donation of 2 dozen flies and boxes.

Advanced fly tying going great this is the last week.

Alan will pass along all the names of those who helped with the Sportsman Show and Marcus will include them in the newsletter.

GPS class 4/20/08 will be held in Bangor. For more information, contact Don Corey 843-5634.

Other Business

Don suggested that we look into buying round tables to us at the fly tying classes.

Ernie suggested that we purchase a PA system since the club has authorized the purchase one. It should be purchased.

Newsletter process. Marcus will complete email to Don who will format. Don will email to John Lent for emailing to club members and to John Weinmann for mailing, It was also suggested that we go to virtual (online) newsletter.

Adjourned at 8:07pm