



BACKLASH

Capital District Fly Fishers

Conserving – Restoring – Educating
Through Fly Fishing



February 2007

President's Message

The month of January is half over and winter has arrived for now. I hope the storm didn't do much damage for anyone and power outages weren't bad. I had a little damage from the ice and almost 24 hrs. of no power. It just delayed me a little. The presentation given by Dave Brandt I think was good, and I hear the presentation this month is just as good and I am looking forward to it.

For those who weren't at the meeting, I made a motion to suspend Robert's Rules till further notice. The motion was seconded, voted upon and accepted. The tying classes are under way and we are totally filled. The classes would appear to be a great success.

Now is the time to check your fishing gear. The season will be upon us quicker than we think. Check the rods and the guides for burrs and nicks and clean them with warm water and mild soap. Clean, check and lube the reels. Check your lines and tippet. Now, to the important part of all this. Check your inventory of lines, tippet and flies. If you need flies now is the time to tie them. Join us on Tuesday nights and tie along with us, show tricks and learn some tricks.

Well it's time to close so here are some things to consider: volunteering for our upcoming events, topics for presentations and hosting an "On the Water" meeting. As I always say: "It's your club, not just the Board's".

See you at the meeting

Paul Sinicki
President

February Meeting

Polish Community Center February 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Marla Blair – author of Positive Fly Fishing, a.k.a. "Bette Muddler" will join us for tips and tales while guiding on western Massachusetts and Connecticut rivers. Bonus Raffle: a two-person guided trip on a river discussed that night.

Fly Tiers Corner 6:30 – the Jailbird – **Tier:** Marla Blair
Fly of the Month: Your "Go-To" fly

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Click here to go to the [FFF Web Page](#)

Click here to [Email FFF](#).

Reminder

You CDFE dues are due for 2007 —

a membership application is attached, if you have not yet sent in your 2007 dues.

For those of you who are Federation of Fly Fishers members, PLEASE remember to put your FFF membership number on your application. CDFE gets a credit on our affiliation dues for each FFF member in our ranks. If you are not yet an FFF member, give yourself a Valentine's treat and join FFF by going to www.fedflyfishers.org or call (406) 222-9369, YOU WILL NOT BE SORRY YOU DID!!!

Know how to tie flies – Want to show others – Want to learn more?!!

The CDFE Fly Tying Classes continue this month. Contact Paul or Rodney if you're interested in instructing or being a floor walker. Help is always needed and appreciated. Even if you're new to tying, take it from your editor – one of the best ways to learn more about the craft is to teach it!!!

Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance Corps

15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park, NY

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming Shows...

March 16-18th: Northeast Great Outdoors Show - Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

Late Addition

March 30th-April 1st: Adirondack Living Show – Adirondack Sports Complex, Queensbury, NY

5th great year! Bigger, better, and coming to a city near you!

THE Adirondack Living SHOW
A celebration of camps, Adirondack art, & rustic living

March 30, 31, & April 1, 2007
Adirondack Sports Complex
Exit 18, 326 Sherman Ave., Queensbury, NY 12804
Fri 12pm-8pm; Sat 9am-7pm; Sun 10am-4pm
\$9.00 general admission; Children 12 and under free

CLICK TO ENTER THE ADIRONDACK LIVING SHOW WEBSITE

CLICK FOR EXHIBITOR INFO

DISCOUNT COUPONS INSIDE

Yes, the Adirondack Living Show is a late addition. It does present us the same opportunity for us to promote fly fishing and our club.

Attention All Members: We will need help for both of these shows. We need help with casting demonstration, fly tying demonstration and instruction, and general promotion of the club, i.e. chewing the fat.

Help!!! We need your input!!!

A number of ideas were tossed around at the recent Exec. Board meeting.

- On the Water Meetings
 - A trout fishing outing in June. The Kinderhook, Kayaderosseras, and even the Battenkill were suggested. Could this be a weekend meeting?
 - Bass fishing at Cohoes Falls in July.
 - Possibly a trip to Round Lake in August.

The idea of a Fly Fishing Rodeo and Picnic was raised. This might involve a cookout combined with some fun competitions like Casting for distance and accuracy (trip the mouse trap), and maybe even Fly Tier's Iron Chef (create whatever you want or can using only what's in your bag). When this event could take place, or even if it will is up to **YOU!!!** If you have any feelings or opinions on these, or any subjects, please contact Paul or Rodney.

AT THE VISE – by John Prokorym

Anything worth building should be constructed on a solid foundation: an education, a career, a building, and even fly tied to be fished...

Foundations can be as minimal as just the tying thread or as complicated as building a form to duplicate a specific insect or minnow shape. Foundations can be referred to as the underbody or first layers on the flies that we tie. No matter the pattern there should always be a foundation on the hook.

Utilizing the tying thread as a base layer can be as simple as double layering or winding over itself after attaching the thread to the hook. In the case of dry flies, we try not to add excessive turns of thread as they all add up, and add weight which might deter the floating capabilities of the finished fly. By simply taking a few turns of thread ahead of attaching materials, we can lay down a suitable foundation. If a tapered or enlarged abdomen area is a desired effect, you can simply add additional wraps of the tying thread before tying in the body material. Without this thread foundation, the materials might rotate around the hook.

Adding materials as an underbody of a fly pattern either as a form of weighting the fly, or creating a desired shape requires a little bit of planning on the tyer's part. If using lead or lead free wire as weight, try using a little larger diameter thread after attaching the wire. Then, leave a longer tag end and wrap the thread in diagonally over the wire. I even go to the trouble of actually filling in the gaps between the wires to make a smoother surface for the finished fly. And, don't forget to coat this foundation with head cement for in the case of lead wire, not sealing it can cause the fly to fall apart after its been fished. This is caused by the chemical process known as oxidization. The same holds true if you use zonker or sticky back lead. You need to coat this material with at the least some sort of cement.

Another method of adding weight to a fly is using gold, brass, tungsten or glass beads. Most of these have spaces at the rear after slipping them onto the hook shank that is meant for materials. If you don't fill in this area there is a free space left and the bead might become a battering ram during casting and actually move the materials towards the tail of the fly. By applying a half dozen turns of lead or lead free wire at the rear and anchoring this with tying thread you can add a bit of extra weight and avoid this potential problem.

Certain insect patterns such as stonefly nymphs, hellgrammite, and dragonfly nymphs and even some caddis patterns have more oval shaped bodies. When trying to duplicate this shape with weight you can utilize either zonker tape layered or lead free wire layered. Then with a pair of flat nose pliers without serrations in the jaws you can flatten the weight. I always apply a layer or sometimes many layers of tying thread to this foundation to fill in the gaps between the wraps, then coat with cement.

The same insect patterns with the oval shapes don't always require added weight, but attaining the shape is necessary if we want to set our flies apart from the standard patterns. To get an oval shape without adding a lot of additional weight I use monofilament, old larger diameter leader materials. I try to match the hook shank diameter with the mono and wrap it along the sides of the shank with loose wraps of thread first. Then once I have both sides tied in I check the shape and utilize the pliers

to flatten the shape before I add tighter thread wraps of tying thread, and coat with cement.

There are many materials that can be used as fly foundations. So don't necessarily discard all those unused tying materials as they could come in handy as foundations. A few examples are the core of tubing materials, extra lengths of materials cutoffs from previous tying sessions or that extra heavy thread that you didn't know what to do with now that you have gotten better working with lighter tying threads. Along with toothpicks, drink stirrs and many other things that you might see that others don't...

Tying FLY Foundations is also a great way to gain experience working with certain materials such as lead, wire, beads, flosses and the different sizes of tying threads. You can tie up a bunch of foundations ahead of time and have them ready when the urge to refill your fly boxes becomes your tying passion.

A solid foundation is the beginning of a great ending...a better fly...

Attention!!!

Submitted by John McCauley Jr.:

The DEC just added the following info to their website:

*Summary of Possible Changes to Sportfishing Regulations for 2008
Affected waters, listed alphabetically by area*

...West Canada Creek

Proposal: Catch and release fishing for trout at West Canada Creek (Herkimer County).

Proposal Description: Extend the Catch and Release area at West Canada Creek by 1.5 miles, to the first bridge downstream of the mouth of Cincinnati Creek. Method includes artificial lures only.

Rationale for Proposal: There have been reports of some overcrowding in the very popular existing special regulation area. In addition, angler groups and the private landowners in this section have requested establishing this additional 1.5 mile section.

Submit e-mail input on regulation ID# R6-10

This is the email address to submit input: fwfish@gw.dec.state.ny.us

For the West Canada, the Subject line must appear thus: **Input on Possible Fishing Regulation Changes for 2008; ID# R6-10 and R6-11**. Please note that there are two ID's – one for Herkimer County and one for Oneida County.

Looking for new ideas? Got some to share? Come out to the Fly Tiers Guild

Tuesday nights, Colonie Youth Center, 5 First Avenue, Latham
Share patterns – Chew the fat – Cheaper than therapy



"Life depends on bottom dwellers"

Home Waters Guest Speaker February 8th

Kelly Nolan, an expert in bioassessment, will be the guest speaker for Home Waters, Trout Unlimited, February 8th at 6:30 at the East Greenbush Community Library. Bioassessment is an integration of aquatic biology, water chemistry and watershed physics used to determine stream health. Kelly will talk about the basics of assessing stream wellbeing, with emphasis on aquatic entomology and the basic water chemistry. If you are a TU member, fly fisher or a conservationist at heart, this is a must-date-to-keep.

DVD & BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

The Soft-Hackled Fly and Tiny Soft Hackles 2nd Edition by Sylvester Nemes

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006

221 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price \$34.95

In 1975, this first edition of this book was the first book published in North America that was directed solely to the North Country Soft Hackles in the style of Edmonds, Lee and Pritt. Single handedly it provided the impetus that brought soft hackles into the fly boxes and hearts of North American fly fishers and revitalized the use of soft hackles worldwide. Now, after being out of print and difficult to find for years, this wonderful book is back. And just as importantly, it has been augmented with eleven new chapters directed to tiny sized soft hackles and how to tie and fish them. Here then, is the definitive work on soft hackles from the ancient Iron Blue Dun to the modern tiny Partridge and Yellow larva. Along the way the author provides a well written overview of the history of these flies including the early tiny soft hackles of writers such as C. C. Mottram. If you love to read about the history of our chosen sport this book is an excellent read. If you want to learn how to tie these extremely productive flies this is the best place to look. The reprinting and updating of this seminal work is a great addition to any fly fisher's and fly tier's library.

Upcoming Events Calendar...

February 6 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 7	Fly Tying Classes - Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance Corps , 15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park, NY
February 13 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 14 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	Marla Blair –a.k.a. “Bette Muddler”, will join us for tips and tales while guiding on western Massachusetts and Connecticut rivers. Bonus Raffle: a two-person guided trip on a river discussed that night FTC: the Jailbird Featured Tier: Marla Blair
February 20 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 21	Fly Tying Classes - Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance Corps , 15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park, NY
February 24-25	5th Annual Goldstock’s Fly Tier’s Cabin Fever Days – Come out and chew the fat with your friends and the pro’s – Careful – you might learn something...
February 27 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
February 28	Fly Tying Classes - Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance Corps , 15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park, NY
March 6 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
March 7	Fly Tying Classes - Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance Corps , 15 Crossing Blvd, Clifton Park, NY
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March 14 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	R Stockton - "Successful Nymphing" Bob will show us his winning ways to successful nymphing. FTC: Nymphs Tier: Lou Bruno Fly of the Month: Nymphs
March 16-18	Great Northeast Outdoor Show – Empire State Plaza -- Help demonstrate fly tying, casting, etc.
March 16-18	Saltwater Fishing Expo - Somerset, NJ
March 20 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham - All CDFD members welcome - come tie what you want, chew the fat, share patterns, tying tips and enjoy the small talk!!!
March 27 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tiers Guild – Colonie Youth Center , 5 First Avenue, Latham – Last Call for the '06-'07 season!
March 30-April 1	Adirondack Living Show – Adirondack Sports Complex, Queensbury, NY -- Help demonstrate fly tying, casting, etc.
April 11 Wednesday 7:00 FTC 6:30	Bill Donato – History of Fly Fishing – Emphasis on (what’s now known as) the Capital District’s role in the history of fly fishing. FTC: TBA Featured Tier: Bill Donato Fly of the Month: Favorite Old or Historical patterns
May 9 Wednesday 7:00	Fishing the Spey Rod – John Prokorym will be demonstrating the Spey rod and the many casting techniques available.

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Fly of the Month: Your “Go-To” fly

Coming Up...

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March 16, 17, 18

Adirondack Living Show –Adirondack Sports Complex, Queensbury, NY
March 30, 31, April 1
Details to follow...

The BACKLASH - Is the official publication of the Capital District Fly Fishers Inc. and is published monthly from September through May, with summer editions as needed.

Submissions for publication **must** be in the editor’s hands two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled monthly meeting.

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