



BACKLASH

Capital District Fly Fishers

Conserving – Restoring – Educating
Through Fly Fishing



April 2007

President's Message

Time sure seems to be flying by. We just finished the Northeast Great Outdoor Show and the Adirondack Living Show is coming up. When you get this message all the shows will be over and Trout season will have begun, so let me say a few things (like you can stop me). In my opinion the shows were a success thanks to all the help. I have received compliments from people about our members and their knowledge. Thank you very much, I was proud and so should you be. I give thanks to everyone that helped at the shows.

The weather has not been cooperating so the start of trout season may not be real good, although any day of fishing is better than none, so they say. My advice is to be careful, as Tom and Lenny would say: IT'S ONLY a FRIGIN FISH! So have fun, and good luck.

We will be having our on the water meetings, 'Take a Veteran Fishing' day and more so check the events listing at the end of the newsletter and mark your calendar. Submit your favorite fly pattern, how to tie it and fish it. Do a book review or an article on something that has made things easier for you to enjoy our sport and share these with other members. If you have any ideas for presentations at meetings let us know, we need your input.

See you at the meeting

Paul Sinicki
President

April Meeting

Polish Community Center April 11th, 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

CDFE OFFICERS ~ 2007

President.....Paul Sinicki.....885-8257
Flyfloat@aol.com

Vice Pres.....John J Prokorym.....869-7563
jjpflytver@yahoo.com

Secretary/Editor.....Rod Priddle....664-3509
RPriddle@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer.....Walter Susko.....477-5505
WSusko@nycap.rr.com

Director.....Lou Bruno.....237-4636
loubruno@nycap.rr.com

Gillie.....Tom Passarelli.....765-3389
AJPLMP@aol.com

Editor.....Eric Kroth.....439-8973
ekroth@nycap.rr.com

Visit our Web Page at:

www.TimesUnion.com/Communities/CDFE

Complements of the **Albany Times Union**

CDFE Conservationist

Battenkill Watershed

John Prokorym 869-7563

jjpflytver@yahoo.com

Adriano Manocchia 677-5744

Adrano@tsmandco.com

West Canada & Brascan Power Group

John McCauley Jr. 273-6967

fiannacon@aol.com

Kayaderosseras

Ralph Karcher 883-8004

ralphk@citlink.net

Federation of Fly Fishers

215 E. Lewis,
Livingston, MT 59047
phone: (406) 222-9369
fax: (406) 222-5823

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

Click here to [Email FFF](#).

From Rodney & Paul...

I set out to do an article THANKING everyone who helped out at this years fly tying class. As I see it, the quality of our program has improved because of the sincere effort and support of our members.

It was obvious after reading comments from the Fly Tying Class survey that the best way to say; “a job well done” and “Thank You,” would be to quote some comment from many of the surveys.

- “This has been a great experience. I am grateful to everyone. I know that this is a huge commitment for you and I appreciate it.”
- “It was informal and easy to ask questions.”
- “Overall a great course.”

- “Great Class, exceptional instruction, could not believe the experience level of instructor’s and support.”
- “Very enjoyable – Looked forward to class night!!!”
- “Many tiers showed excellent alternant methods.”
- “When you’ve got everything going for you, don’t mess with it.”
- “Very Good Class – you guys are very good and very patient. I looked forward to coming to class very much. Thank you for a great time!!!”

All who helped should be proud of what you have done for the Club and for the sport and in turn the club thanks each of you for a stand up job!!! To say anything more would be repetitive and redundant.

Rodney & Paul

Bug Dope for your Fly Tying Chest

Fly tiers have used mothballs for years. However, recent studies have indicated that both para-dichlorobenzene and Naphthalene used in mothballs may be linked to illnesses, including **cancer**.

Have you been infested by bugs in your fly tying supplies? Here is a mixture to keep them away and keep you from gagging on moth ball fumes! There is a similar herbal moth repellent sold at Wal-Mart, naturally called Moth-Away which contains some of the same ingredients, but is not effective against all of the critters that a fly tier can encounter.

Fill small cloth bags (sometimes called potpourri or tea bags) with the bug dope and place one in each SEALED container of **natural** fly tying materials. You can also hang them around the house near such areas as cellar windows to eliminate houseflies, spiders, moths, earwigs, etc. The Dope is good for a minimum of 3 years; however, it is suggested to squeeze the bag to reactivate the dope at least every 3 to 6 months.

We have a place that is mixing the formula for us and is making it available by the pound at \$15.00 or by the ounce at \$.95. They also have the bags that come 12 in a pack for \$2.60. Contact them before going to buy to make sure they have some and that they didn’t sell out.

CONTACT:

**Wild Thyme Whole Food & Tea
108Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 885-7275**

Random Thoughts From The Tying Bench

By C.W. "Don" Coleman – taken from the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers newsletter

POLARIZED LIGHT-- Scientific studies have proved that fish can see polarized light—a particular characteristic of Ultra Violet light which humans cannot see. Nearly all insects, zooplankton, crustaceans, and baitfish reflect polarized light. Many marine species use this ability to navigate and detect prey. The amount of polarized light refracted into the water is greatest when the sun is about 30 degrees above the horizon. When polarized light is reflected by baitfish or crustaceans it causes them to become luminous and more easily seen and identified as food by predator fish. Incorporating materials that can reflect polarized light in our flies may be as important as behavior, size, and shape to our success as fly fishers. Thomas J. Sholseth, in his new book *How Fish Work*, shows us how to determine which fly tying materials are capable of reflecting polarized light.

Tape a linear polarizing filter (from a camera shop) over a flashlight lens. Wear your polarized sun glasses (a must) and go into a dark room with the materials to be tested. Wait until your eyes become adjusted to the dark. Then shine the flashlight on the material to be tested. Rotate the flashlight to see if the material "lights up" at 90 degree positions. If reflectivity remains the same in all positions, the material does not reflect polarized light. There are not many materials suitable for fly tying that can reflect polarized light. Peacock Herl and Polar Bear Hair are two materials that do. Saddle Hackles, Bucktail, and most Mylar flash materials do not. Unfortunately, polar bear hair is illegal in the U.S. and when it can be obtained from Canada is very expensive. Fortunately, Peacock Herl is readily available and makes an excellent topping on baitfish imitations. Look at the success of Leigh West's Green and Gold.

DVD & BOOK REVIEWS

Tying Flies Like a Pro by Marty Bartholomew

Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR, 2006

182 pages, softbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price \$29.95

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

The author is a professional fly tyer that gathered some of his favorite patterns as well as the favorite patterns of thirteen other professional fly tyers to teach a collection of tying, materials selection, and material preparation techniques. This collection of techniques will provide the reader with lots of ways to tie better and better looking flies as well as speed up the tying process. The book starts with a chapter on materials preparation including how to weight hooks. The following seven chapters are an eclectic collection of patterns to imitate caddis flies, mayflies, midges, stoneflies, terrestrials, as well as streamers, attractors, and saltwater flies. No matter what kind of flies you like to tie and fish there are tips and techniques that will help you to improve your tying quality and speed. The patterns have step-by-step tying instructions with high quality images of each step as well as the recipe and the tyer's notes. Overall, this is an excellent tutorial for intermediate and advanced tyers that wish to improve the quality and consistency of their flies. The use of different ways of breaking the hook shank down into sections is a bit confusing. One pattern will be done in quarters, then next in fifths, the next in eight sections.

This is confusing and requires that the reader pay very careful attention. A more uniform and simplified system would have made the book a lot easier to follow along with while at the bench. This book is a worthwhile addition to the library of any fly tyer wanting to improve his tying.

Editor's note: I also have a copy of this book, and echo many of Mr. Harang's comments. The "Tricks of the Trade" chapter was very informative for a relatively new tyer, like me. Some of the patterns were new to me (I look forward to trying them), and many were familiar, although presented differently, with a new tying technique or material. As for the comment about the measuring units: well, some flies are measured differently...

Tying Bob Quigley's Signature Flies by Bob Quigley

Pegasus Productions, Ashland, OR, 2003 www.pegasusvideo.net

VHS & DVD, 90 minutes, Color, suggested price \$24.95

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

Bob Quigley is one of the premier tyers of flies for use on flat surfaced water, both moving and still. His Quigley Cripple is probably one of the most well known patterns for catching large wary trout on waters like the Fall River in California and the Henrys Fork in Idaho. This production has Bob take you through the tying of eight of his patterns that have become standards around the world. The quality of the production is excellent. The lighting and sound are particularly good allowing the viewer to concentrate on Bob tying. The camera angles are generally very good though there are a few spots where the camera is behind Bob's hands and the viewer can not see what is being described. The script is well written and is expertly delivered so as to provide a friendly chat between tying buddies. While this tying session is available on both VHS and DVD you will want the DVD for the ability to stop action and go directly to a particular pattern by use of a menu. For ninety minutes of top notch instruction by the originator of these superb patterns the price is a steal. Get this DVD if you have any desire to tie flies for flat water that will bring up the biggest fish in the area.

Polly Rosborough Ties His Fuzzy Nymphs by Polly Rosborough

Pegasus Productions, Ashland, OR, Memorial edition 2004 www.pegasusvideo.net

VHS & DVD, 90 minutes, Color, suggested price \$24.95

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

This is a memorial edition of a production originally taped in 1986. Here is a chance to sit down and tie alongside one of the true legends of fly tying now gone on to a fish a better river. Polly explains the history of his patterns and techniques that he started working out in the 1920's. Thus, you also get a glimpse into the tying methods and designs of over a half century ago from one of the men that were their doing it. Interestingly, the Fuzzy Nymphs still have a following and still catch fish as well as anything we have designed since. The viewer gets both a history lesson and a fly pattern lesson for flies that catch fish as well as they ever did. The production sound, lighting, camera angles and filming are top notch. This DVD is a remake of the original video tape from 1986 and unfortunately a few common video tape glitches have not been cleaned up. However, this is a very minor problem and certainly will not detract from the historical importance of the DVD. With ninety minutes of tying with this legend the price of admission is really reasonable.

Upcoming Events Calendar...

April 11 Wednesday 7:00 FTC 6:30	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
Anytime	Go Fishing – The streams are receding and ponds are icing-out...
May 9 Wednesday 7:00 No FTC	Fishing the Spey Rod – John Prokorym will be demonstrating the Spey rod and the many casting techniques available. Special Meeting Location – 6 Mile Water Works. This event Rain or Shine... except for lightning – see May 16th
May 13	Mother’s Day
May 16	Lightning date for Spey casting demo
May 19	CDFE Casting Clinic – Clifton Park Commons – Rain date: Sunday, May 20th
	Connecticut – NO FREE FISHING DAYS
May 26	Pennsylvania – Free Fishing Days
June 2-3	Massachusetts – Free Fishing Days
June 3	Pennsylvania – Free Fishing Days
June 9	Vermont – Free Fishing Day
June 13	On the Water Meeting – 6 Mile Water Works
June 23-24	New York – Free Fishing Days
June 26	Take a Veteran Fishing – 6 Mile Water Works
July 11	OWM – Round Lake
July 17-22	Saratoga County Fair – Come help promote fly fishing and the club. Tie an hour, enjoy the fair!
August 8	OWM – Cohoes Falls
September 12 Wednesday 7:00 FTC 6:30	Welcome Back! – Time for the start of meeting season, again. Share your stories, tell tall tales – you’ll laugh, you’ll cry...

Congratulations, Raffle Winners!!!

Zach Olson - Rod

James Lundy – Float Tube

Frank King – Float Tube

Mark Ellsworth - Class

In lieu of a “From the Members” column, we bring you this fill-material.

If you do have an idea for a column, maybe a book or video you recently bought, maybe a fly pattern you invented or rediscovered, or even a product that you love and won’t leave home without (or maybe should never have purchased), let us know. Put together your thoughts in a Word file, or let Paul, Rodney or me know. You may have only the beginnings of a column, but that’s more than we have now... Thank you.

We now return you to your newsletter, already in progress...

April Meeting

Polish Community Center April 11th, 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.

Last Call for RAFFLE TICKETS!!!

Fly Tiers Corner 6:30 – the Jailbird

Tier: Marla Blair

Fly of the Month: Your “Go-To” fly

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.

**Capital District Fly Fishers
C/O Walter Susko
40 Hy Drive
East Schodack, NY 12063**