

Main Line Fly-Tyers 2007-2008

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November 2007

Meeting Thursday November 15th, 2007

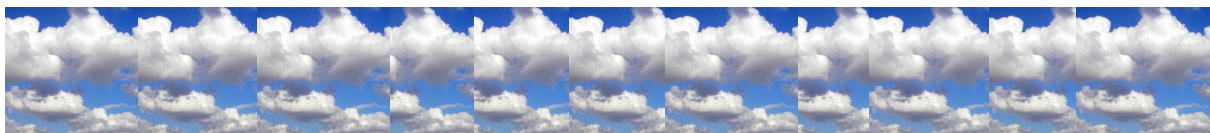


**November Speaker
Mike Martinek Jr.**

**See page 2 for Mike's
"Olive Varigator"**

Mention Streamer Flies and the name Mike Martinek, Jr. comes to mind. With almost 40 years of tying experience focused on the traditional flies of the Rangeley Lakes Region of Maine, Mike is the world's foremost authority on their history, construction, and identification. Featured in many books, including two of his own, Mike has been featured in Judith Dunham's *The Atlantic Salmon Fly*, *The Schmookler/Sils*, both *Rare and Unusual's* and *Favorite Flies*, as well as Don Wilson's *Smelt Fly Patterns*. He has also been the subject of many articles found in every fly-fishing magazine in the USA and several overseas. Immediately acknowledged as a streamer tier, Mike was an early exponent of salt-water patterns and fly-fishing. He is well-rounded and proficient in every type of fly. Mike has tied, lectured, and taught at many events, shows, and meetings in both the USA and in Europe. With his tips and techniques, you will improve your skills in material selection and preparation by tying several streamers such as marabou wings, upright hackle wings, Rangeley featherings, and buck tail wings.

Mike is also a well-known, highly respected tier and teacher, as well as author of "Streamer Flies for Trolling and Casting", Volumes I and II



Mike Martinek's "Olive Varigator" (A fall trout or salmon streamer)

Materials

Hooks: Daiichi black Limerick size 2.

Thread: Giorgio Benecci size 14/0.

Tail: Golden Pheasant crest.

Underbody: Silver mylar tinsel.

Body: Pearl mylar tinsel.

Underwing: White bucktail.

Wing: Varigated Ewing yellow/olive grizzly.



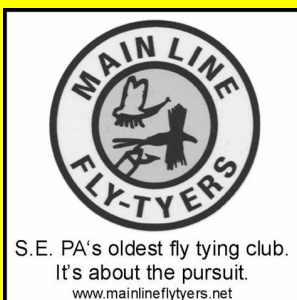
Comments from Mike Martinek:

. . .The vast variety of patterns may daunt the beginner or intermediate tyer, however the best way to improve technique is to pick two or three patterns or a style of fly, and tie them over and over. This applies to all fly families, dry wet nymph etc. The tyer who is frustrated by his or her results when looking at photos in a book only need to remember the old adage "practice makes perfect" (or close to it.) The harder you try to force or expect excellence, the more elusive it becomes. Do not try to sit down and tie several different patterns each time you sit down to tie. Stick with one type for a few nights. Bouncing around from dry to wet to salt to streamer will give you a pile of mediocre flies, but not improve your skill

Main Line Fly Tyers Forum

Currently there are about 30 members registered to use the MLFT forum. It's a fun place to post and share information and 'we' encourage every member to participate. Tell us your fishing stories, post pictures, ask questions and even sell/swap your equipment. In order to post messages you'll need to register for a user-id. Just click on "Register" at the top of the page and follow the instructions. You'll get a confirmation email from the forum to complete the registration process.

The URL is: <http://www.mainlineflytyers.net/forum/default.asp> or get it from the Club's homepage <http://www.mainlineflytyers.net>



Happy Thanksgiving!





**Fly of the Month
Tied by Sam Vigorita
at last months meeting,
The
Bronze Flash Nymph**

Hook: 9671 or 9672
Thread: Black
Body: Natural Hares Mask
Hackle: Grouse Body Feather
Rib: Pearl Crystal Flash
Thorax; Bronze Peacock Herl
Tail: Wood Duck



Membership: As of October 31, we have 55 PAID members. All non-paid members have been dropped from the mailing list. A late fee of \$5.00 applies to any member from last year that has paid late.

CLUB OFFICERS

President - Steve Birkenmaier
Vice President - Gil Learn
Treasurer - Frank Howard
Recording Secretary - Shaun Dougherty
Newsletter Secretary - Randy Mears
Webmaster - Mike Ebner
Trip Planner - Steve Larson
Planning Committee
David Shillington
Bob Peters
Ed Emery
Kurt Griffin
Sam Vigorita
Ed Kotake
Steve Nack
Chuck Cuthsall



the²⁰⁰⁷
International
Fly Tying
Symposium



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FOR SALE

Check these out for Cold Weather Wading!

Sims Extreme Neoprene Waders, Felt Soles, Corkers, Like NEW!

Size Large \$325.00

Hodgman Neoprene Waders, Large, Felt Soles, Like NEW \$50.00

Contact:

Brent Myers

610-405-4473 Cell

610-584-1610 Home

3rd Annual Christmas Auction & Christmas Party!

The Auction will take place at our December meeting which is scheduled for Thursday the 13th.

This years Christmas Auction is upon us once again.

Rules and Requests:

-Please bring at least one item where the entire proceeds from the sale of the item go the club.

-For any other items, the club will receive a 10% commission on the sale price.

-A minimum or opening bid can be set for any of your items but please be reasonable.

-Non-members can auction an item as well for only a 15% commission due to the club

-Since this is a special event, there will be a \$5.00 charge to non-members

We know you guys have lots of stuff you don't need so bring it in and get rid of it and make some cash!!!

Doors open at 6:30 for this meeting so get there early to bring your auction items and see what's available!

MLFT Minutes of General Membership Meeting October 17th, 2007

Speaker: Don Douple

Attendance: 36

New Members: 3

Guests: 0

Upcoming Trips:

- 1) Cast and Blast - Scott's Run - Saturday November 3rd
- 2) Pulaski Steelhead Trip - Pulaski, NY - Thanksgiving Weekend
- 3) Fly-Tying Symposium - Sommerset, NY - 11/17-11/18

Proposed Activities:

1. Get members to tie at the meetings
 - a. Have one or two people tie a pattern of their choice at the start of the meeting.
 - b. Contact Sam V. Or Steve Larson if you want to tie at a meeting
2. January and February weekend tying at French Creek Outfitters and The Sporting Gentleman.
 - a. Contact the club president or VP if you are interested and we will coordinate at the November and December meetings

Raffle Winners:

1. Vice: Gene Hughes
2. Fly-Tying Scissors: Rich Metzger
3. Dwight Landis Book: Mike Mancke
4. Bass-fishing Video: Mike Mancke
5. Headlamp: Steve Nack

Presentation: Trout Fishing Potpourri - Don Douple

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20pm

Next meeting: Thursday November 15th

From the Outdoor News:

PF&BC trout plan update scrutinized

Thursday, November 8, 2007 10:31 AM EST

By Bob Frye
Capital Correspondent

Harrisburg — The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is about to kick off the job of updating its trout-management plan. But it's getting some ideas already.

The agency will hold the first day-long meeting of its new trout-management working group Nov. 17 at its Stackhouse facility in Centre County. Details on exactly who will sit on the board weren't available at press time, but it will involve sportsmen, Fish & Boat commissioners and agency staff.

In the coming months, the agency also will hold several public meetings to talk to sportsmen about trout and even hire a polling firm to solicit opinions from anglers unaffiliated with sportsmen's clubs.

In the meantime, though, six anglers were asked this question: "If you were in charge of trout management in Pennsylvania, and could change one thing about how the state handles the species, what would it be?"

Their answers - which represent their personal opinions and not necessarily those of the groups to which they belong — show there are a lot of issues connected to trout worth thinking about.

Ken Undercoffer, president of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, is one of the people who will serve on the trout working group. He said the main concern he'll bring up there will deal with wild trout.

Stocked trout have an important place, he said, but they should be kept separate from wild fish.

"If I had one wish, it would be that the Fish & Boat Commission quit stocking over our wild trout populations and put their fish in places that can't support a fishery otherwise," said Undercoffer, a 23-year resident of Greensburg now living in Clearfield.

"The reason is because putting stocked trout over wild trout actually damages the wild population."

Keeping them out of streams with "significant" native populations - and that's something that would have to be defined, he admitted - and putting them in marginal waters would lead to more trout overall, he said.

Walter Reinemen, president of the Penns Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Allegheny County, said he'd focus his attention on making sure fishermen can get to fish, wild and, perhaps most importantly, stocked.

The Fish & Boat Commission spends millions of dollars annually to raise and stock trout. Yet, the reality is that those fish often move into waters running across private property, Reinemen said.

In years past, that wasn't much of a problem, he said. A simple knock on a door was often enough to get you access to those places.

That's not necessarily true anymore, he said. People are less "sharing," he said, either because they've encountered littering or had a bad experience with anglers or lease their property or whatever.

That's why he'd like to see the commission make securing easements - like those being purchased along Lake Erie's steelhead streams - on trout streams all across the state a priority in its new trout plan.

"If you can't get to the fish, that's a publicly-funded resource that's unavailable to the public," Reinemen said.

Ken Vorndran, vice president of the Tri-County Trout Club in Allegheny, Westmoreland and Armstrong counties, has been fishing for about 12 years. In all that time, he's never creeled a trout.

He has no problem with those who do take fish home to eat. He does believe, though, that stocked trout - which cost something like \$2 each to raise - are too valuable to be caught just once.

The cost of a license and trout stamp is never going to go down, he said, so the commission needs to make sure anglers are getting as much for their dollars as they can.

If he were in charge of managing the state's trout, he would open trout season a few weeks earlier than the traditional mid-April, but limit angling to catch-and-release only during the extra time, he said.

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"That would be a way to better utilize those resources that frankly we're all paying for," Vorndran said.

President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Rocco Ali thinks the Fish & Boat Commission is largely on the right track when it comes to how it manages trout. Switching to raising fewer but bigger fish and moving opening day up in the southeastern part of the state were both positive moves and evidence of the "outstanding job" the commission is generally doing, he said.

"I can't really say anything bad about the job they're doing. I don't want to," he said.

Yet if he does have one pet peeve, it's the commission's practice of sprinkling big, trophy-sized fish in each and every one of the waters it stocks, regardless of how much habitat exists.

Putting 20-inch fish in places like Deer Creek and Bull Creek just because they're close to a population center like Pittsburgh is a waste, he said, because if they fish aren't caught within a week or two, they'll die.

"This is a put-and-take fishery, we all know that, and that's OK. But don't put your Class A fish in there," he said.

Lin Gamble, president of the Tub Mill Trout Club in Westmoreland County, is interested in improving trout streams. His club has spent the last decade trying to improve Tub Mill Creek, and had some success, he said.

But if the Fish & Boat Commission focused on offering more assistance - possibly greatly expanding on its Adopt-A-Stream program - a lot more could be done, he said.

"We've got a lot of streams that are 100 feet wide, but only the middle 50 have any water and that's all slack and slow moving," Gamble said. "You've got stream bank erosion, all kinds of problems, but we just dump fish in the few big holes by the bridges and move on to the next one."

To address that, he would have the Fish & Boat Commission worry less about raising trout - even if that meant relying on commercial hatcheries instead of state-operated ones to supply fish - and spend more time on fixing the streams where the fish will ultimately end up.

"I'd like to see them take one stream per county per year, or however many they could do, and get in touch with local people who want to help, and fix them," Gamble said. "It could be your keynote stream for the county, or whatever you want to call it. Little by little you could get a lot accomplished."

Art Grguric, nursery manager, Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association and Trout Hatchery, said that like Ali, he's pretty satisfied with the commission's management of trout.

The agency is good to cooperative hatcheries like the one he's involved with, he said, and stocks nice fish on its own.

If he could tweak anything in the state's trout-management plan, it would be to focus more attention on recruiting more trout fishermen and convincing them to stay on the water longer.

The opening day of trout season is a big cultural event, Grguric said. But a month into the season, most of the state's trout fishermen have packed away their rods for the year, even though plenty of fish remain to be caught.

His club stocks 15,000 trout within an 11-mile stretch of stream along, he said, and it's chronically "overstocked and underfished."

The commission needs to fix that, he said.

"After four weeks, it just seems to go dead," Grguric said of trout season. "I know that when we stock our own fish, you can go up the stream and count all of the guys on one hand, maybe two at the most. And that's on the weekend."