

Main Line Fly-Tyers

2007-2008

mainlineflytyers.net

Volume 3 Issue 7

March 2008

Meeting Thursday March 20, 2008

An Evening of Romance and Reflection !

(Huh?)



Come out and join the Main Line Fly-Tyers for a special evening on Thursday March 20th as we will be hosting fly fishing legend Joe Humphreys. Joe needs no introduction to the fly fishing community. This is your chance to see and hear not one, but two great programs presented by one of the top anglers in the country. One program is titled "Romancing the Trout". The second program captures a special day in Joe's life that he'd like to share with us. So plan now to be at the Greater Plymouth Community Center at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be 10.00 fee for nonmembers (guests) to help offset some of the expenses we will be incurring for this program. Refreshments will be served. Directions and contact info can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events



- March 15th: Club Tying Event at French Creek Outfitters in Phoenixville PA
Time: TBD
- March 20th: Main Line Fly-Tyers Monthly Meeting
Guest Speaker- Joe Humphreys
Two special programs:
 “Romancing the Trout”
 “A Day in the Life of Joe Humphries”
- April 5th: Fly Fishing Day at Resica Falls Scout Reservation
(Details in this newsletter)
- April 6th-13th: Fly Fishing Trip to Florida Keys
- April 12th: Opening Day of Trout Season in PA (northern regions)
Club Trip to the Broadhead Creek
- April 17th: Main Line Fly-Tyers Monthly Meeting
Guest Speakers- Barry & Cathy Beck
Presentation: The Digital Road to Better Fly Fishing and Outdoor Photography



- May 16th-18th: Trip to Penns Creek
(Sign up at meeting or contact Steve Larson. A 50.00 deposit is due)
- June 6th-8th: Camping Trip to Upper Delaware River
- Sept. 5th-7th : Trip to Upper Delaware River Staying at West Branch Angler
- Sept. ? Montana Trip
- October 4th: Lake Fishing Day (date tentative)
- November 6th: Cast and Blast Outing (date tentative)

Old Tradition Resurrected

When MLFT club president Steve Birkenmaier took over the reigns back in September he made it known that he had a vision to see the club back tying in the local fly shops as was tradition in years past. That vision was set into motion thanks to coordinated efforts by Mike Ebner and Gil Learn who worked out arrangements with two local shops, the Sporting Gentlemen in Media and French Creek Outfitters in Pheonixville.

This past Saturday our club president was joined by MLFT members Mike Ebner, Sam Vigorita, Dave Shillington, Steve Larson, and Shaun Dougherty at the Sporting Gentlemen Fly Shop. The guys tied flies for several hours and interacted with store patrons. They had the opportunity to meet and speak with Betsy Miraglia from the Philadelphia Salmon Fishing Club. Dennis DiBonaventura, one of the early presidents of MLFT also dropped by. Someone even signed up as a new member. It was an all around good day for those who participated. A 10% discount was given by store proprietors, Barry and Christine, on all tying supplies to any MLFT member who stopped by that day.



Next up is French Creek Outfitters on Saturday March 15th. Please contact Gil Learn for details if you can help tie that day. Even if you are not available to tie, stop by and show your support for our members. Your patronage would be greatly appreciated by the store. Also, if anyone has any ideas for future tying events or has an established contact at a local shop please pass that info along to Steve Birkenmaier.

Road Trip, Coburn or Bust !

There are still a few openings available for the Coburn trip scheduled for May 16th-18th. Over a dozen members from MLFT did this trip last year and reported having a good time. We have booked a half dozen rooms at the Feathered Hook B&B. This location is literally within walking distance to famed Penns, Pine, and Elk creeks. Its only a short drive from Spring Creek as well as other famous PA fly fishing streams. A sign up sheet will be available at the monthly meeting, or you can reserve a spot by contacting Steve Larson. A \$50.00 deposit is required when signing up.

Help Needed !

We are calling on all MLFT members to pitch in and help keep this newsletter a fresh and worthwhile monthly publication. Volunteers are needed to contribute to the ongoing "Fly of the Month" and "Book Review" sections. Monthly fishing and stream reports are also going to be added features going forward. Photos would be a real bonus. If you don't feel comfortable writing up an article you can just contact me (Frank Howard) with details and I'll be sure to get your report into the newsletter. I also welcome any ideas and constructive criticism you may have on how we can improve the publication. I eagerly look forward to hearing from many, if not all of you going forward. Remember, many hands make light work.

Main Line Fly Tyers

Presents

10th Annual Learn to Fly Fish Day

When: April 5th, 2008

Where: Recessa Falls Scout Reservation, Marshalls Creek, Pa.

Who: Available to the club members and non-members

Time: 9:30am

If you ever wanted to learn to fly fish, this is the class for you. Our day covers all the basics of flyfishing. You will learn how to fish nymphs, wet flies, and dry flies. Beginning and advanced casting instruction is provided. We can also inspect and show you how to set up your equipment. Fishing the Big Bushkill Creek on the Reservation is included, as is lunch.

9:30am Assemble

Nymph fishing session

Wet Fly fishing session

Dry Fly fishing session

Lunch

Casting lessons

Fishing all afternoon



Cost of this day is \$40/per person. (free for club members)

**** More information and driving directions can be found on following pages ****



Sign up for this day and you will also get a full Main Line Fly Tyers membership included. This covers all the remaining meetings for our year, the annual Fly Fishing Day and our annual camping trip. For additional information call Ed at 610-630-9738 or Mike at 610-489-8319.

Or send your name, address, telephone#, and email address along with a check payable to:

Main Line Fly-Tyers c/o Frank Howard

7033 Ridge Ave. Unit 2B

Philadelphia., PA. 19128

Main Line Fly Tyers

Presents

10th Annual Learn to Fly Fish Day



**** Other Important Info ****

Dress Appropriately

Bring layers of clothing you so you can add/remove clothing depending on the weather and activity. Remember, you'll be in the Pocono's and the temperature can be significantly cooler than 'at home'. Rain gear - if the forecast is for rain, bring your rain gear. The class goes on rain or shine (and even snow, it's happened before!).

Liquids:

Hot and cold drinks will be served with lunch. If you want/need more bring your own. NO ALCOHOL. We'll be on Boy Scout grounds and alcohol is strickley forbidden!

Equipment:

A 5 or 6 weight rod, 8 1/2 to 9ft is recommended. If you don't own a rod, we'll help you borrow one for the casting clinic but you won't be able to take part in the on stream sessions or open fishing. The club does not have 'loaner' equipment.

Waders are a better choice than hip boots. Hip boots are always 'one step two short'. The stream is not difficult to wader but felt soles and/or cleats help a lot compared to rubber soled waders/boots.

A large fly with the hook cut - off. This will be used for the dry land casting instructions. You'll need a fly on the line to properly turn over the line during casting. With the hook cut off, the fly will not get caught or hung up on the grass.

DIRECTIONS TO RESICA FALLS SCOUT RESERVATION

(From Plymouth Meeting, PA)

Take the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 33 (Route 22). Follow Route 22 east to Route 33. Take Route 33 north to Route 209 to I-80 east. Travel I-80 east to the Route 209 exit (#52). Follow Route 209 to Marshalls Creek. In Marshalls Creek take Route 402 to Resica. Resica Falls Scout Reservation is six miles from Marshalls Creek.



From: Plymouth Meeting, PA US

To: 1200 Resica Falls Rd East Stroudsburg, PA 18302-9736 US

Driving Directions

1. Merge onto I-476 N toward ALLENTOWN (Portions toll). (37.45 miles)
2. Merge onto US-22 E via EXIT 56 toward PA-309/I-78 E/ALLENTOWN. (17.05 miles)
3. Merge onto PA-33 N toward STROUDSBURG. (21.74 miles)
4. Take US-209 N toward STROUDSBURG. (3.96 miles)
5. Merge onto I-80 E/US-209 N. (3.91 miles)
6. Take the US-209 N exit- EXIT 309- toward PA-447 N/MARSHALLS CREEK. (4.23 miles)
7. Turn LEFT onto RESICA FALLS RD/PA-402. (5.49 miles)
*(**After turning left on PA-402 there is an immediate quick right to stay on PA-402**)*
8. End at 1200 Resica Falls Rd East Stroudsburg, PA 18302-9736 US

Total Estimated Time: 1 hour, 43 minutes

Total Distance: 93.83 miles

Fly of the Month

Contributed by Sam Vigorita

The Early Brown Stone Fly



This is a pattern you can count on when the early Brown Stone Fly is on the water

Hook:	Mustad 94840 size 14-16 (2x long)
Thread:	black
Body:	dark mahogany brown dubbing, palmered with a dark barred dun
Wing:	microweb - medium to dark dun or reverse hackle wing using dark barred dun
Over-wing:	very sparse deer hair
Hackle:	dark barred dun

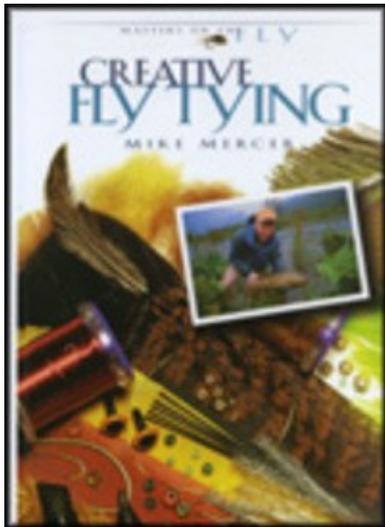
Tying Steps:

1. Tie in by the tip a dark barred dun hackle. Take care not to bind down the fibers on the tip to get a first good wrap when doing the palmering the feather.
 2. Dub the body.
 3. Palmer the body with the feather attached in step 1. Trim it top and bottom, leaving fibers sticking out from each side of the body.
 4. Form a reverse hackle wing from a dark barred dun feather. Do this by stoking the fibers of the feather in a reverse direction and add a drop or three of head cement. Stoke the feather in the the appropriate shape and size.
- Or
- From a piece of Microfiber wing material cut the wing to the desired shape and size.
5. The wing is tied in flat 'stonefly fashion' over the top of the body.
 6. Add a sparse amount of deer hair as an over wing and flair it to the sides of the main wing.
 7. In dry fly fashion tie in and wrap the hackle at the front of the fly
 8. Complete the head and whip finish.
 9. The final step is to cut a "V" in the front hackle on the underside of the hook. The trimmed palmer hackle and "V" in the front of the fly will allow it to sit like a natural in the water. Low in the butt and higher in the front.

Book Review



Submitted by: Dwaine Glidden



Nearly anyone who has fly fished their entire adult life will have trouble getting excited about another book on fly tying. Most serious tyers likely have dozens of tying books which get into excruciating detail regarding hooks, threads, materials and sometimes have some commentary about the virtues of the patterns that are being described. Yet we continue our pursuit of finding just the right book that fills the void in our need to improve. There's also a certain mystique around the whole fly tying art/craft that has fascinated us for generations. It seems that the true "classic" books will outlive those of us well beyond our "last cast" – as they should. But it's also refreshing to see that despite the dogma of the days-gone-by we continually improve our methods and materials. Creative Fly Tying by Mike Mercer is a breath of fresh air because of an interesting observation that is stated in the foreword of his book, "Fly patterns and the way we think about tying have changed because we have changed the fish."

Mercer's book has a short chapter on *Reading the Water* before getting into the heart of the tying methods. He initially spends time making it clear how important presentation is to our sport. He spends some time laying out four tips that all anglers can cherish – they're worth the few minutes it takes to read them over – I won't go over them here. Thankfully, while we can all use some coaching from time to time, he gets right into the heart of the book in chapter 1 with *Gold Bead Poxystack Green Drake Nymph*. Well, I got my moneys worth right of the bat. This pattern has given two indispensable materials are now a permanent addition to my bag of tricks – aftershaft feathers from ringneck pheasants and 5 minute epoxy. First, the aftershaft feathers are those tiny little feathers that are attached to the shaft of the main feathers and are the ones that we usually throw away. These feathers are used to simulate the abdominal gills on the body of the nymph and, I believe, explain the great effectiveness of this fly. Secondly, the epoxy that he uses over the wing case adds to the realism and helps the nymph sink at a high rate; helping the gold bead to do its job.

The nymph has been phenomenal for me in Montana on the North Fork of the Flathead River, including a four pound natural hybrid cut-bow that nearly jumped over the nearby mountains and two fifteen inch plus native rainbows in New Hampshire on the Smith River during a quickie two hour fishing opportunity. The fishing "window" occurred while my wife attended a family shower across the road from the stream. Looks like a good fly is neither "Eastern" nor "Western", ya'll.

Finally, the book is well written and gives us a chance to view some new materials and techniques. This is a quality book with spiral bindings that allow you to lay the book flat (a great help for all tyers). It's a little pricey at \$39.95 but each page is about 9" x 12" with some great pictures to boot. Enjoy!!!

General Information

Website: mainlineflytyers.net



Meeting Location:

Greater Plymouth Community Center
2910 Jolly Rd
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Driving Directions:

From Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276)

Take Exit 333 (Norristown - old exit 25). At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Plymouth Road. At the light, turn right onto Germantown Pike West. Continue approximately one (1) mile, through four (4) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

From Blue Route (I-476)

Take exit for Germantown Pike West (Exit 20). Continue on Germantown Pike west for approximately one (1) mile, through five (5) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

From Route 202

Follow Route 202 to Germantown Pike. Travel EAST on Germantown Pike, through five (5) traffic lights. At the next traffic light, approximately half a mile, turn left onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

Club Officers:

President: Steve Birkenmaier

Vice Pres.: Gil Learn

Treasurer: Frank Howard

Secretary (Newsletter): Frank Howard

Secretary (Recording): Shaun Dougherty

Librarian: Jim Costello