



November Newsletter

MAIN LINE FLY-TYERS

Don Douple Presents Tips

A special note of thanks to Don for his continued support of MLFT and our ongoing programs for members and friends. The October meeting featured Don and his extensive knowledge of this great sport.

Don has been a long-time member of our club and is a former officer and supporter.

Don maintains a quiet manner and is able to instruct others in a way that is clear and informa-

tive.

Don's presentation began with a look at his tying work station. He shared many tips and tricks with regards to organizing storage space and setting up his

tools for easy access and handling.

He also shared some cost and time saving secrets such as dying your own materials and finding bargains in unconventional places such as craft stores.

The presentation also included tying demonstrations of a few flies and some tricks to tackling some of the more difficult tying issues.



Don Douple showing some tying tricks at a previous outing

Ken Tutalo to be this Month's Presenter



Ken, the owner of the [Baxter House River Out-](#)

[fitters](#), has been fishing the waters of the Upper Delaware for over 30 years. Over the last 8 years while operating the Baxter House, Ken has shared his knowledge and love of the local waters with hundreds of people.

When not guiding or helping customers in the Fly Shop, Ken can usually be found stalking the glass like pools of the East Branch for Wary Browns or wading the pockets of the Lower Beaverville for Wild rainbows.

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Special points of interest:

- East Brandywine & Pickering Creek Delayed Harvest areas were stocked in Oct.
- The International Fly Tying Symposium will be held in Somerset, NJ on Nov. 22 & 23
- Next meeting on Thursday November 20th
- Tyers are needed for monthly meetings
- Try 16-20 Pheasant Tail Nymphs this month

Stream Watch—Valley Creek

My wife, some family members from out-of-town, and I walked the banks of Valley Creek on October 16th and were amazed at the wonderful fishing conditions that we saw. The creek was gin-clear and was packed with trout. We walked the section from the old steel bridge on the dirt road (near the PA turnpike) to the gazebo in Chesterbrook and saw dozens of trout—many in the 15 to 22 inch range. I didn't get chance to fish it in the next few days but I thought that the club mem-

bers would like to know about this great fishing opportunity, so I passed on word to as many as possible!! I think that the trout



Valley Creek near the Steel Bridge
In Valley Forge

were on the move upstream and wouldn't be approachable when they got to the smaller part of the stream; that means that the window-of-opportunity isn't open for long.

If anyone is interested and needs more details they can Email me at dglid-den43@verizon.net or can call me at 610-265-1854. Good luck !

Dwaine

Book Review— *The Art of Fly Tying* by John Van Vliet

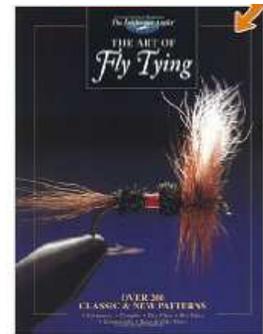
This is a great book on covering the fundamentals of tying and the use of tools and techniques but it also includes some very effective patterns that actually catch fish.

The book is clearly illustrated, touches on all aspects of this centuries old craft including some history, popular materials, and the

prominent features of dozens of modern trout flies and their construction.

If you can find it the spiral-bound version it is worth the slight extra cost as it can be laid flat or put on a book stand.

The included CD ROM is a real good addition to a tyers library.



Can the water be *too clean*?— there's not a simple answer!

In an effort to clean up the environment and improve the esthetics along the way, there have been Herculean efforts to clean up our waters and, hopefully, improve the fishing sport as well. In theory it sounds like it's a win-win situation and only good can come from such a plan—right? Don't be so sure.

We're very fortunate here in PA to have streams that are limestone in nature and, therefore, can tolerate some variations in the Ph (acidic/alkalinity levels). You don't hear much about *acid-rain* these days but it's still out there. It's not a major problem for us because the slight alkaline level of our streams

provides a *buffering capacity* not afforded to the freestone streams in other states.

You wouldn't think a slight difference in Ph would have a dramatic effect on a trout stream—would you? If you think about how the Ph level of water affects the biochemistry of the trout's environ-

Can the water be *too clean* ? (con't)

ment, it's importance becomes obvious.

Pure water is neutral so it, therefore, is neither + or -. Because a high Ph (+) results in dissolved nutrients being present in the water and a low Ph does not—the entire bio-system is tied to this characteristic of water. Having dissolved nutrients makes all the difference. It causes a food chain that flourishes top to bottom—with trout being near the top.

So much for chemistry, what does all of this mean to the average Joe-the-plumber fly fisherman? It's not obvious all of the time but those who fish freestone streams from time-to-time appreciate the sparse nature of these bio-systems. This is most obvious in noting the lack of significant hatches and the typically small size of the fish. Normally tiny brook trout are most able to adapt to these conditions.

Okay, we all know that freestone streams are fragile and need to be protected, so where am I going with all of this? Let me introduce you to the Dog River in central Vermont...

The Dog is a medium sized trout stream that flows through central Vermont near Montpelier; the capitol. It has many small towns along its path and has been the source of great trout fishing for a long, long time. When I lived in Burlington, I could drive to Northfield Falls, catch 5 or 6 good trout and be home before the late news. My wife's parents lived with the Dog adjacent to their property in the Falls so I often overlooked the stream from their back deck and was amazed at the

number of trout that the river had between its banks. That was in the late 60's, 70's and 80's.

The stream was quite "polluted" in those days but the stream was full of trout! It wasn't pretty but the Falls would actually generate clouds of



*Little Kettle Creek a freestone stream
in upstate PA*

soap suds and a few yards away 18 to 20 inch trout rose to mayflies with total disregard.

I spent a day fishing the Dog in October and saw no fish in the river itself and only caught a few small brookies in the feeder streams that empty into the river. I fished very hard and didn't even scare any fish while wading the stream. What could have happened? Where had all of those beautiful trout gone?

All of those little towns along the stream had sprung up during the granite boom that occurred about a century ago. Because the boom had occurred over a short period of time there was no infrastructure or central sewer system to handle the bulging population. Each home

used a septic system with a leach field. The leach fields weren't entirely efficient and small amounts of effluent would find its way into the river. It didn't smell very good but the bio-system had a source.

Well intended national cleanup requirements have forced these small towns to "clean up their act". Federal funds have materialized and hastened the process. The streams are now crystal clear but the trout are gone!

Because Vermont is a granite-based state it lacks the calcium-base that we have here in PA enjoy. The problem occurs when the *acid rain* shocks the stream and it has no buffering capacity. In Vermont it's more accurate to call it *acid snow* as it accumulates in huge amounts in the Green Mountains over the winter months. The spring runoff, that would normally be a long awaited blessing, is instead a lethal event for the poor fish.

It's sad to see a once noble trout stream to fall victim to well intentioned and noble cause of clean water. I wouldn't ever suggest going back to a polluted trout stream but perhaps there's a way to release regulated amounts of micro-organisms rather than just pure but sterile H₂O. Always endorse environmental projects that improve this planet's health. Hope for fair weather, good health, an improvement in stock prices, but when it comes to clean water thank, God for buffering capacity and...

be careful what you wish!

Invitation from our friends at The Sporting Gentleman:

ORVIS

THE SPORTING GENTLEMAN
300 West State Street
Media, PA 19063

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT OUR LOCATION ON:

Thursday, November 13th
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday, November 14th
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Phone & e-mail orders (made during the event) qualify for sale prices!
(610) 565-6140 sprtngent@aol.com



SAVE TIME & MONEY
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10% - 50% OFF in-stock* gifts for *EVERYONE* on your list
10% OFF plus **FREE SHIPPING** on Orvis & Filson
catalog orders
Gift wrapping always included at no additional charge
5% of sales support the Darby Creek Valley Association
*excludes used rods & merchandise already reduced

While you're there, check out the trout carvings by club-member Dwaine Glidden near the book section of the store.

Don't Forget the December Auction

This is a reminder that our annual club auction is fast approaching. This fund raising event is held every year at our December meeting in conjunction with our holiday party. It's a fun fast paced night which can yield some great buys and bargains. So start gathering that stuff you no longer use.

That spare vise that's collecting dust. Those rods that have given way to newer and fancier models. The meeting and auction are open to everyone. Members donate 10% of the auction price to the club. Non-members are required to donate 15% of the winning bid.

That's just another reason to join our membership!



Refreshments Served at Each Meeting

Refreshments are being provided at each meeting by Kathleen McKenzie and Jerry Usatch who have volunteered to continue this most-appreciated service to member and their guests. A special word of "thanks" to Kurt Griffin for providing this service over the past few years.

It's a pleasant break to have a cup of java, a donut and share the-one-that-got-away stories with our guest speakers and old friends.

Thanks, again for these refreshments and we'll try our best to keep the area *reasonably* clean!





MAIN LINE FLY-TYERS

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

Club Officers:
President: Steve Birkenmaier
Vice Pres.: Gil Learn
Treasurer: Frank Howard
Newsletter: Dwaine Glidden
Secretary: Al Kotake
Librarian: Jim Costello
Website: Mike Ebner

- submit newsletter items and suggestions to:
dglidden43@verizon.net

We're on the Web
www.mainlineflytyers.net

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.

Back Casts—as the Season Winds Down

It's a little sad to see another "season" come to an end but it is, perhaps, a good time to reflect on how well 2008 treated us on the stream and recall what lessons were learned along the way. Pennsylvania doesn't really have a "closed season", per se, but there certainly is an "effective season" that results from the natural order of things as the water temperature drops, the hatches subside, and the trout's metabolism adjusts accordingly.

The "off season" is a great time to concentrate on some of the other attributes of our sport and to "unwind" a little and get caught up by attending to details that at times seem trivial but can make all the difference

at those crucial times on the stream. What better time to fix those leaky waders, discard all of your out-of-date leaders and tippet materials, and purge your fly box of all of those ineffective flies that looked so good when you tied them but,



A mature Valley Creek Brown headed to spawning grounds

somehow, just don't look so "great" anymore and only take up valuable space.

It's also a great time to reflect of how the season played out -- did it meet your expectations? Did it provided the memories and experiences that will linger over the long winter months?

It's not always the bigger fish that we remember—sometimes it's the encounter with a deer (or in my case with a brown bear in Yellowstone), the "monster" that rose your fly but refused at the last second, or the bunch of little brookies that fought to hit your dry fly on that crystal-clear stream in upstate PA.