



February Newsletter

-Meetings on third Thursday of the Month-

Mark Sedotti gives Presentation

Mark Sedotti was our guest presenter for the month of January. His specialty is *big flies* cast over long distances.

He explained his preference for these large flies and spoke extensively about his rationale for using them and why they work at times when most classical patterns and methods fail.

His tying demonstration included the use of

tungsten weights, the use of rabbit strips, and went into what he



Mark Sedotti describes fly tying and fishing tactics at January Club Meeting

called “weight balancing”, which roughly pertains to the way the materials are distrib-

uted along the hook shank and the way the fly sinks and rises when worked through the water.

Casting of flies that are very large, according to Mark, has to do with the weight balancing, the aerodynamics resulting from the materials used, and some fundamental casting skills.

Giant flies don't fit with the *normal* concept of trout flies but his pitch made sense.

Dean Druckenmiller will present in February



Dean was introduced to the sport of fly-fishing by his father at the ripe age of 6. His dad ignited the passion for the sport by taking Dean to his uncles spring fed pond where they hooked many steelhead-sized rainbows. But the addiction really did not start until the age of 12 when Dean caught his first wild trout off the surface of Penns Creek. Dean has also attained the thirst for the salt; going after stripers, bluefish and weakfish along the New Jersey Coast, Martha's Vineyard and Boston Harbor. Recently, Dean and FFPA co-owner Jake Markezin, along with other like-minded anglers, founded the Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance.

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Special points of interest:

- Fly Tying Contest coming soon
- Fly Tying/Fly Fishing winter classes start in February
- Next meeting on Thursday February 19th
- Penns Creek trip slated for June 6. Make reservations at The Feathered Hook
- Sign up for tying demos at Sporting Gentleman, 2/28

Wade Safe—it could save your life?



It only takes a second or two to get into real trouble while wading a stream—first you're secure and concentrating on making a cast to a trout that's just a little out of your reach. The next thing you know you've lost your footing on the slippery rocks underfoot and you're about to take a dunking.

If it's in winter or at a tailrace fishery, the next thing you feel is an extreme cold that takes your

breath away—and it won't come back!

The best thing you can do is try to be prepared before you go. Here's a few tips:

- Use felt soles or cleats on your waders
- Try to keep the water out of your waders (neoprenes are good; use a belt for loose-fitting lightweight waders)
- When wading in deep water don't be afraid to use your expensive fly rod as a rudder— it's relatively cheap compared to your life! It won't break!
- Check your waders for leaks in a dark room by using a bright flashlight

On the lighter side—

While fishing the South Platte in Colorado I was required to carry what was called a Sky-Pager— needed to stay in touch with colleagues back in Colorado Springs. [This was many years before cell phones were available]. It was uncomfortable to wear on my belt under my neoprene waders so I slipped it into a shirt pocket and buttoned it shut.

While wading the Platte I mistakenly turned into the current (that's a no-no). Naturally, I took a bath in the 40°F water. I had previously switched the pager to vibrate mode and when it hit the water it was set off!! Having lost my breath and having my chest vibrate I thought—“OH, GOD, THIS IS THE BIG ONE”. Then I realized I was just dumb!

Beginner Tying Classes begin in Spring

This beginning fly tying class will cover the basic techniques of tying flies and prepare you for the opening day of trout season. The course will cover the tools, materials, and terminology you need to get started. Students will be taught how to tie nymphs, streamers, wet flies, and dry flies all of which are effective, proven trout catchers on our local streams. If you've ever wanted to learn how to tie flies this is the course you need to get started. The instructor is a member of the Main Line Fly Tyers and has been teaching fly tying for over 15 years.



Streamer Fly being constructed

Date: Tuesdays, February 17 – March 31 (No class on March 10)

Time:.....7:15 - 9:15 p.m.

Location:.....Lower Providence Township Administration Building

Fee:.....\$42 Resident, \$52 Non-Resident

Stream Watch—Boiling Springs Run

The town of Boiling Springs lies just south of Carlisle which is in south/central PA; a few miles west of Harrisburg. It's an awesome little town that reminds me of many of the New England towns of my childhood. It takes about two hours of driving west from King of Prussia on the PA Turnpike to reach this great spot.

For the average fisherman fishing the Run can be either a great time or a humbling experience. My first cast on the Run was many years ago but my presentation of an elk-hair caddis was greeted by a beautiful brown that rocketed from under a rock and tore across the pool like a tarpon. My return trips have been OK but more humbling.

For our members I've asked the folks at the Yellow Breches Outfitters for some advice for first-timers. Here's what Emily, owner of YBO wrote:

The run is a limestone, fed daily by the huge spring or "bubble" that comes out of the ground behind The Boiling Springs Tavern. The water is a pretty consistent 53 degrees, summer or winter. The run is heavily stocked yet also has spawners entering the creek in October and November. It has BWO's and Sulphurs and Lt Cahills in the usual season for those mayflies. It also has

abundant midges and huge numbers of scuds. Caddis populations are also strong. The most consistent topwater activity is between early May and late

warm months fished on the edges in a downstream presentation. On summer early mornings and evenings, the fish will rise very subtly to midges: Griffith's Gnats, I-Can-See-It midges, etc. The Plunge Pool at the top of the Run is consistently loaded with 12-inch to 18-inch trout in the back eddies and under the flume.

This is a great fishery!

Emily casually mentions the Tavern in her Email. This is a great place for some upscale dining, which asks for "proper dress". However, I've found that the Tavern itself is "fisherman-friendly" and makes a mean

sandwich and has a good selection of drafts, as well.

If you have the time and a few bucks to spare, it's worth it to stay a couple of days at one of the local B&B's or stay at Allenberry Resort and Playhouse, just up the road.

The Carlisle area is rich with many limestone streams that draw fly fishermen from the world over. Some of the limestoners are very difficult to fish, both because of the stream conditions and the "educated" trout. The Run is challenging but not impossible. It should be on every fisherman's "bucket" list.



Boiling Springs, PA

The Run is just to the left in the background



The Run in Boiling Springs

September.

The most consistent winners in the Run are midge larva and pupa. Though we also catch fish on sucker spawn, egg patterns, and woolly buggers throughout the year. Small parachute Adams flies are great in the

Winter Classes to begin in Upper Moreland Township



Sam Vigorita & Dave Shillington
instructors

The winter session of classes for
Fly Tying (beginner & advanced)

and *Fly Fishing Tactics & Strategies* will be running in February at Upper Moreland Township Parks & Recreation Dept. at 117 Park Ave. in Willow Grove, PA. The *Tactics classes* will be on 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/19, 2/24 & 3/2. The *tying classes* will be on 2/5, 2/12, 2/15, 2/26, 3/5, & 3/12 all at 7 PM.

Late registration is allowed but pre-registration is highly suggested by contacting Gail Rosen at 215-659-3100 ext.1038.

These are well-established courses that have been offered to the club members and the general public for many years. Here's a great chance to learn the skills that you would like to acquire; whether you're a beginner or not.

There's a minimal fee and some of the proceeds are later returned to the club. Sam Vigorita and Dave Shillington of MLFT will be running these informative and valuable classes.

Book Review– “Fishing Nymphs, Wet Flies & Streamers”

As much as we hate to admit it, we probably catch most of our trout while subsurface fishing, rather than by any other method. It's not only that the methodology is a little more forgiving, than with surface fishing, but the habitat itself for most trout streams, lends itself to these methods. Just look at most trout water and you will notice that the vast majority of the water is on the move. Fortu-

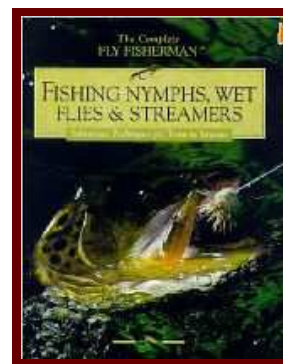
nately, it's this rolling, moving environment that sustains the trout themselves by supplying critical oxygen needs.

This book has only three chapters but each is loaded with a wealth of information.

Chapter 1 focuses on *Understanding Trout Streams* covering nearly every detail of the habitat so necessary for trout to flourish.

Chapter 2 covers *Subsurface Basics* or how to get started.

Finally in Chapter 3 we get to study each of the popular subsurface techniques. It's a nice little book.



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.

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Thursday of the month
starting at 7PM*

Back Casts—The world's easiest fly to tie? ...perhaps!



*Mystery Fly?
Looks like something the cat dragged in (or coughed up!)*

It's hard to know exactly what year it was when I saw this pattern but it was at a time when the only sporting magazines around were those like *Field & Stream* and *Outdoor Life*. There was an article in one of these that showed a

nymphs in those days but I was intrigued with this pattern and wondered exactly what they were supposed to imitate. You can see that the fly is very non-specific but it can catch a decent trout or two—especially in the early

spring when the water is still high. very simple but deadly nymph pattern that nearly anyone could tie, without any real training. I had never tied a fly before and thought I'd give it a try. I didn't even own a fly rod yet but this ragged, crude pattern not only caught fish (and still does) but it made it's user into a lifelong fly fishing addict.

I'm not even sure that they called them

spring when the water is still high.

It was even a challenge to find good tying materials back then, so things that you shot usually provided most of you *stuff*.

So here's the "secret" formula—take a squirrel tail and chop up some of the guard hairs and fur near the base of the tail. Place the "dubbing" in an elongated pile on a piece of wax paper or any disposable material. Take a short piece of lead (or lead substitute) wire, smear it with tying cement, roll it in the dubbing, wrap it around your hook—voila!

The fly sinks like a rock so toss it into the rolling current and hang on. If you loose a few on the rocks, who cares—it only took you about two minutes to tie it!

Ed Note: Does anyone know if it has a name? Let me know.