



-Meetings on third Thursday of the Month-

“Learn to Fish Day” plans taking shape

Final preparations are being made for our annual “Learn to Fish Day” that takes place at Resica Falls in Bushkill, PA.



Activities start at 9AM on April 11th with coffee and greetings followed by some fundamental skills demos; needed to get even the most novice up and running. Nymphing and casting instruction will finish the morning agenda and take us into the lunch break and raffle drawing at around 11:45.

Following lunch there will be a some one-on-one casting coaching followed by a wet fly fishing demo, a dry fly demo; then finishing up by small group fishing tutoring.

The entire conclave takes place on the Resica Falls Scout Reservation so alcoholic beverage are strictly forbidden.

Complete details and directions are available on our website at:

<http://www.mainlineflytyers.net/MLFT.htm>



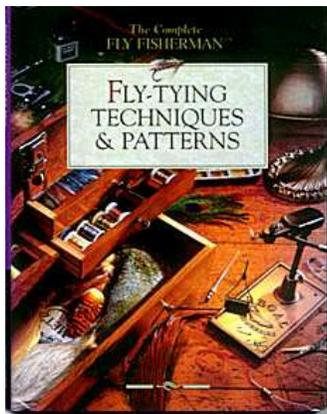
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Special points of interest:

- April activities being planned—Resica Falls, Opening Day, & Stick Day
- SE PA season opens April 4th; General season opens April 18th
- Next meeting on Thursday April 16th
- Thanks to Sam V., Dave S. & Ed E. for donating proceeds of over \$ 300 from the spring tying/fishing classes

Book Review- “Fly-tying Techniques & Patterns” by John van Vleit



This is an outstanding little book for beginners because it hits on the three major components necessary to produce an effect trout fly. They can be defined as:

- Selection of the right tools and materials needed to get started

- Identification of the aquatic insects that you'll likely find on most trout streams
- The tying process itself; described in sufficient detail so that a beginner (with a little help) can tie a fishable trout fly

The book covers these fundamentals so well that it's been my “go to” book when introducing my grandkids to the fly tying world. The text supplements the color photos throughout the entire book in a clear and accurate manner. In less than 150 pages this little gem covers the fly tying art at a high enough level as to not lose the beginner or bore the accomplished tyer.

In spite of it's “compressed” nature there's enough substance here to jus-

tify spending about \$15 on this hardbound book.

It contains about 350 photos, many of which are very good pattern photos with a detailed description given below each photo.

If you decide to buy the book don't miss the chapter on *How to tie a terrestrial: The Dear Hair Beetle*. The only suggestion I'd make here is that I like to start tying the fly just a little farther back on the bend of the hook; I think it helps hide the hook a little better.

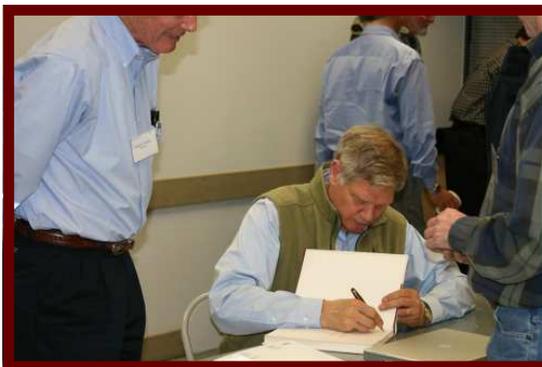
If you want to introduce a friend or family member to this sport/art I'd start with this.

-Dwayne

Gary Borger Visit a Big Hit with Members & Guests

The March MLFT meeting was highlighted with presentations by fly fishing master, Gary Borger. He gave a special afternoon tying session and an evening book signing and slide presentation. The afternoon tying session provided those who attended an up-close event with questions and answers being fielded by Gary in a relaxed, informal environment.

The evening session featured an informative presentation, to a full house crowd; followed by a question and answer period and a book signing session, as well.



*Gary Borger signs books for fans
At March Club Meeting*

Gary's fly fishing knowledge spans four decades and his method of communicating and sharing his knowledge with others endears him to all who see

his videos or attends his presentations.

Those who attended the session agree that his lectures either met or exceeded their expectations. Hopefully we'll be able to see his return to MLFT someday in the future and to learn and share our experiences with one of the true masters of this great sport.

Meanwhile, try to apply his suggestions to your own “bag of tricks” whenever you get to go fishing.

Stream Report—Salt River, Arizona

It's a little strange to be fly casting for trout in cold, clear water while there are cactus plants nearby and hawks circling overhead; searching for anything they can find to eat. It's something of a well kept secret that this arid, dry land has these little oases that cool the weary traveler or visitor, and quench the trout-fishing thirst. The Salt River, just outside of the urban Phoenix area, is one of these little gems.

The Salt is a classical tailrace fishery so it is strongly dependant on the state Fish & Game department stocking program to maintain it as a viable trout fishery. Unfortunately it lacks special regulations so it gets some "truck chasers" and many who put trout in their freezers. On the plus side, the Salt is close to Phoenix and provides some trout fishing to an area that would otherwise be without. Another big plus is that it satisfies the trout-fishing hunger for the "snowbirds" and is available to the vacationers and businessmen who have to "squeeze in" a few hours of fishing smack in the middle of what is mid-winter back East.

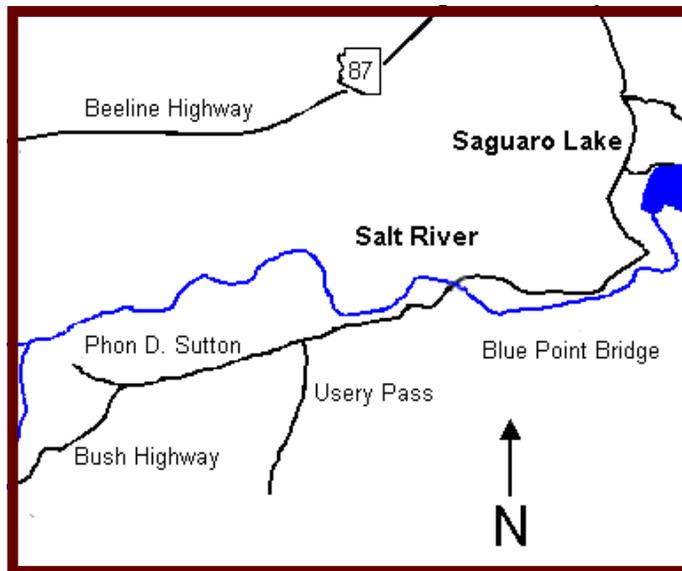
If you get a chance to try the Salt, it's worth a visit to the Orvis shop in Scottsdale to get up-to-date info

about the stream conditions and local fly patterns. Cinda Howard or

Greenway Parkway in Scottsdale.



*The Salt River
(below Saguaro Lake Dam)*



*Map of the Salt River
(below Saguaro Lake Dam)*

others at the shop can provide you with crucial details before you head out of town. Orvis is at 7012 E.

It's something of a shock to find that Arizona has some 500 miles of trout water and has no closed season. The Salt is by no means the best as there are no holdovers here. The vicious summer drought prevents any year-round survivors. Those seeking bigger trout should drive 2 hours to Oak Creek in Sedona, where there's a "catch and release" section, or head for the White Mountains which

are north and east of Phoenix; about 3 to 4 hours away.

There are some rustic cabins on the Salt at Saguaro Lake Ranch Resort (for just over \$100 for a night) and horseback trails, as well.

As a word of caution, parking in the Tonto Forest, which contains much of the Salt River, requires a day pass at \$6. Unfortunately, you have to buy the pass before you go into the forest. I got mine at Walgreens in Mesa. The fine of \$100 is enough to get your attention. If you fish the

White Mountain area you'll need a permit, as it is on reservation.

Upcoming Events for 2009

(Suitable from fridge magnet mounting)

Southeast PA Opening day - April 4th at 8:00 AM

- Not a scheduled Club Event

Learn to fish Day – April 11th 9:00 AM

- Coffee in the AM
- Lunch Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda
- Training Staff: Sam Vigorita, Dave Shillington, Mike Ebner, Steve Birkenmaier, Don Douple, Gene Paprocky
- Cooking Staff: Steve Larson, Rich Metzger, Steve Nack, Ed Emery
- For Cabin information call Scout Headquarters at 610-688-6900

Northeast PA Opening day - April 18th at 8:00 AM

- Brodhead Creek, Stroudsburg, PA
- Meet for lunch at the Park right under the Rt 191 bridge
- Lunch Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda
- Cooking Staff Steve Larson

Stick day – April 25th

- Brodhead Creek, Stroudsburg, PA
- Meet for lunch at the Park right under the Rt 191 bridge
- Lunch Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda
- Cooking Staff Steve Nack, Steve Larson

Delaware River - May 29th to 31st

- Pleasant Valley camp ground - Linda, 570-224-4038, Equinunk PA
- Each tent must call up for a reservation with number camping
- Bring your own food
- Must arrange own tenting/Sleeping arrangements
- Will break up in groups to fish

Penns Creek - June 5th to 7th

- Contact Steve Larson 215-822-1511 for information
- Make reservations at The Feathered Hook, Colburn PA 1-814-349-8757
- Breakfast included
- Dinner usually on the Grill at the Feathered Hook, everyone splits the cost
- Guides available, Contact Feathered Hook

Delaware River Trip II

- Late July, early Aug.

Lake Fishing Day

- Tentatively scheduled for Oct 3rd

Cast and Blast

- Tentatively scheduled for Oct. 17th

“A look into the past” - continued

(Continued from page 6)

today most of Europe’s best waters are privately owned and not accessible to the average Joe. That’s in contrast to how many of states in the US have laws that permit public access to all residents whenever the water is “navigable”.

Regardless, as you flip the pages a number of outer subtleties catch your eye. Notice that the photo on this page shows how they implemented spinners on the front of their salmon patterns. I don’t know what the laws are today but you won’t find many *spinners* in you local fly shop’s tying section these days. It appears that it was culturally accepted to apply whatever method produced results. Based on the cover photo, some of their methods must have worked. Unfortunately, fish were considered an infinite resource and “catch-and-release” concepts were still decades away. Reading through some of the “testimonials” you find things like catch records of “1352 salmon and grilse in 51 1/2 days” for 2 guys. (**ed note:** that would even be a stretch for Sam).

The well-equipped angler in those days would don an oil-cloth overcoat with wool tweed knickers, carry a 16 ft. rod, be armed with a silk fly line and natural gut leaders, and pack a Hardy fly box with dual-hacked dry

you’d think that you have been fishing with a telephone pole.

It’s neat to see how far we’ve come but it’s also cool to see how the technology and culture have evolved.



*Some fly plates from Hardy's Angler's Guide
(notice to “propellers” on the nose of each salmon fly)*

flies. (**ed note:** I’m tired just thinking about fishing with that much weight; I’ll bet it’s almost equal the weight of my vest alone).

You might think that “composite” rods are something new– right? Their idea of a composite rod was something with a solid steel core with a six-strip greenheart butt and a split bamboo tip section. After about an hour of casting one of these babies

Thanks to today's computer technology I did some research on my “lucky find”. The inside cover is stamped with “Property of Robert S. Gass”. A Google search came up with someone who was probably in his twenties when he ordered the catalog. If it’s the same guy, he later served as a officer in one of the Maine chapters of the Order of DeMolay. Hopefully, he lived a long life and got the chance to harass some of those beautiful Maine brook trout or landlocked

salmon, and shared his love of the sport with the next generation.

The next time you pickup that awesome new “composite” fly rod think back to the times when our predecessors arose early in the morning, packed up their gear and headed for a nearby stream; only to return home with “tennis elbow”, a creel full of trout, and thoughts of “when can I get to fish again?” Soon, lets hope!

Local Shop Invites Members to Open Tying Sessions

A red rectangular box containing a fly fishing lure on the left and contact information on the right. The text reads: 'Frank's Fly Fishing Shoppe', 'George Orlovitz, Proprietor', '7906 High School Road, 2nd Floor, Elkins Park, PA 19027', 'phone (267)475-6055', 'fax (215)635-3978', and 'ffshoppe@comcast.net'.

George is considering offering a tying night at his shop on Tuesdays between 7 and 9PM. In addition to the use of his shop he will be offering special discounts on tying materials for those who are interested. He envisions that this would be an informal get together where MLFT club members would have a chance to

learn from one another and share tying tips with each other. Contact George at the next meeting or call him at his business if you would like to take part in this great opportunity. Look for the signup sheet at the monthly meeting.



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)

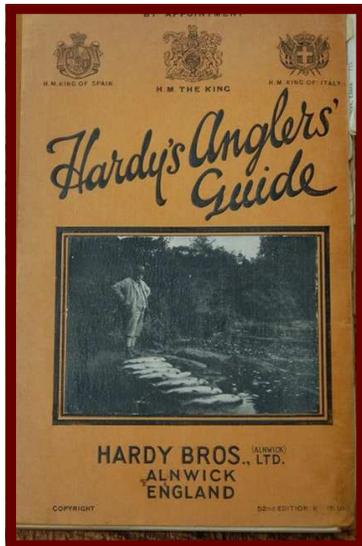
Take exit for Germantown Pike West (Exit 20). Continue on Germantown Pike west for approximately one (1) mile, through five (5) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly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

*Meetings held on third
Thursday of the month
starting at 7PM*

Back Casts—A look into the past, “Hardy’s Angler’s Guide”-1930



*Picture of Hardy’s Angler’s Guide
from 1930*

I stumbled onto this gem in a box of junk that I purchased at a flea market for \$2. It was just by dumb luck that I came upon an item that holds a special place in my fly fishing library. It sits right next to my signed copies of Matching the Hatch and The Compleat Brown Trout; as it is one of my most treasured holdings in my fly fishing memorabilia. The following is not a “book review” but, rather, and look back in time to a very different fly fishing culture than what we are now accustomed to today. It’s sometimes difficult to keep this great sport in the proper perspective. The years have passed by quickly and we have learned much from those who have gone before us. Now it’s our turn to pass on our values and knowledge to those who come next– but mostly we should pass on the love of our sport and what we’ll do to preserve it. -Editor

It’s kind of odd to see fish stacked up like cord wood on the front of a distinguished fishing catalog by if you look closer you realize that the photo pre-dates most of us living today and reflects the cultural climate when aristocrats were the only ones that could claim fly fishing as their own.

What a blessing that here in America most of the waters are considered to belong to the people and not to a privileged few. Even

(Back cast to page 5)