



# February Newsletter

*-Meetings on third Thursday of the Month-*

## Ben Turpin to present this month...



Ben Turpin Custom Rod Building and Guide Service was established in 1997. The business evolved out of 20 years of fly fishing experience and a dedication to education and excellence in the sport. He's an Orvis endorsed guide and offers guided fly fishing trips in the scenic Pocono Mountains and Northwest New Jersey. He has been fishing these streams for fifteen years or more and has experience and local knowledge to provide clients a memorable experience. He guides in this historic fly fishing area including the Brod-

head Creek, Lehigh River, Big Bushkill Creek, Big Flat Brook, and the Pequest River. Along with guiding in the Pocono region he also guides the Southeastern, PA limestone streams in the Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton areas. These limestone streams are highly productive and just a short ride from New Jersey and the Philadelphia area. Two day trips are also available to the classic limestone streams of Central Pennsylvania. ✂

### Request to all Members:

The club will be manning a booth at the Oaks Sportsman Show in Oaks, PA on February 25-28. We are asking members to tie and donate some flies that we will offer to sell at the show. Try to select some of your best as this is a reflection of our skill and expertise. Remember that the sale will help defer some of the expense of booth rental fees. This is a great chance to promote MLFT in Southeastern PA. ✂



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#### Special points of interest:

- *The Sportsman Show at Oaks February 25-28*
- *Tying at Calvery Outdoors Exposition – March 6<sup>th</sup>*
- *Tying at the Sporting Gentleman—March 13<sup>th</sup>*
- *Have any good game recipes? Post them in the SOURCE (see page 7)*
- *Next meeting February 18<sup>th</sup>*

## Bill Skilton was guest speaker at January Meeting...

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Bill Skilton's presentation was the highlight of our January meeting. He effectively shared his expertise with our members via a well-organized approach including a live video feed. Bill's background has provided him with much hands-on knowledge not only of the local mid-PA streams but, more importantly to his audience, his

ability to convert that knowledge into tangible fly design; by interpreting materials properties into *effective fly*

those with vast amounts of knowledge can convey that knowledge to the average fisherman. Coupled with his approachable manner, Bill was able to reach our entire membership with his message of *creative design and presentation*. Material selection and incorporation of those materials is at the heart of good fly design and is the cornerstone of the art of fly tying.



*Bill Skilton during his presentation*

*Foam materials are utilized in many of his flies*

*patterns*. It's not often that

Let's try to implement all we've learned into our own work. ✦

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# We're on Facebook!!

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The club is now on Facebook. This is a great way for us to showcase our club's activities in a more public and global way. There's no better arena to show off our attributes than through this extremely popular website. The club boasts of covering all bases by virtue of this *newsletter*, the club's *website* (including a user-based *Forum*), and, now we're on *Facebook!!* But don't let the high-tech stuff scare you away; if that's not your thing. We do our best to meet the needs of all our members and supporters via our informal *monthly meetings*, *fly tying demonstrations*, and some *limited hard-copy mailings*. That's to say nothing about our *annual outings*, and *informative classes*. That's a pretty ambitious roster but today's fly-tyer is an informed and active individual— but we still have time to put out the coffee pot and donuts at our meetings and talk about the one-that-got-away! ✦

go to <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&qid=189656898592>

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## Typing Tips : give an automatic bobbin a try...

If you're a tyer that likes to work with the bobbin tip close to your work it makes sense to use one of these for all of your fly tying. Not only are these time-savers but they are an absolute must for anyone who experiences hand cramping caused by the fatigue of constantly rewinding your thread. If your youthful years are behind you then you need to avoid activity that causes additional strain on your joints. For those guys who tie flies in large quantities then these things are a godsend.

As with most designs, there are some pluses and minuses with these tools. It's only fair to list them here:

The first problem is how to get your tying thread from the suppliers spool on to the provided bobbin spools. It sounds complicated but its not horrible. All it takes is a variable speed electric drill and your all set.

If you want to increase the tension on the thread you will have to plan ahead when you thread the device. It's not very scientific but an extra wrap or two of the thread on either of the side arms, before feeding the thread through the tube, does the trick. The extra drag of the thread on the arm helps provide the tension to your liking.

Another nice feature is that ceramic

tube is provided. I've had my unit for many years and it shows no sign of wear, whatsoever. I would expect



*An automatic bobbin works like a window shade - it saves the hassle of rewinding the thread back onto the bobbin*

that the tube will well outlive this author. The internal spring has shown no sign of failure, so it's hard to comment on its durability, at this point.

Probably the most problematic feature occurs when you mistakenly cut your tying thread, at which time the spring pulls the thread back through the tube. However, the manufacturer provides a "clutch" that lets you neutralize the spring by simply pulling the bobbin away from the fly about 3 feet (once your through tying) and the tread can be cut without it being 'retrieved'.

Another way to prevent premature rewind is to either attach a nearby set of hackle pliers to the thread or hold and cut the thread and quickly wrap it around a nearby protrusion on your vise, lamp, or anything else that will serve the purpose.

Now that I've used this devise for so many years, it's hard to be without it. The current list price for the bobbin, extra spools, and arbor is \$50, which at first blush sounds pricey but given the great service that it's provided it's probably one of the best purchases that I've ever made (next to a good vise).

Overall, I'd consider an automatic bobbin a "must" for any serious tyer. Not just for the speed but for the other advantages mentioned above.

Hint: under the category of "tips" the manufacturer's website has a number of videos that include two hints that are worth passing on. One is to use a bead mat placed on you tying

bench for beads and hooks (can be found at Michael's, etc.). The other is to use a small folded terrycloth towel for things like hackles that



*Example of an Automatic Bobbin with spare spools (by Nor-Vise)*

tend to blow off the bench. Go to [www.nor-vise.com](http://www.nor-vise.com) . -editor 🍷

## Got cabin-fever? Work on filling up your fly boxes...

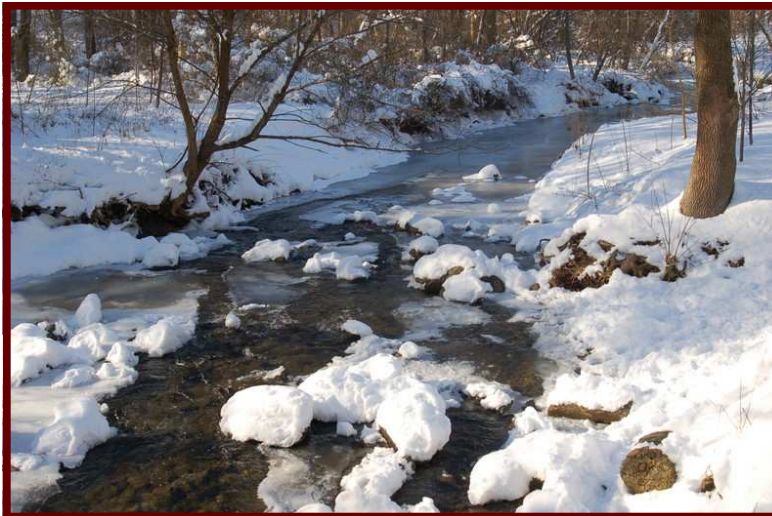
The Super Bowl is over, the Mumpers have strutted, the snowstorms have you trapped for days and ice falling from the nearby trees has just severed your FIOS line (ed. note: it just happened to me, ugh!!), so the only WiFi connection is a mile and a half away at Starbucks—don't worry you've got some nearly empty fly boxes to fill up.

The tying bench might still be cluttered with some leftover clippings from last summers tying frenzy, but if you fail to take advantage of the winter's doldrums you'll be sorry next spring when you open your fly box and find that the barb on one of your prized Cahill's is broken off! And it's your only one!

I wish I could claim to be a well-organized tyer, but I'm not. Instead of tying what I *should* be tying, I usually tie whatever I'm in the *mood* to tie. It makes me cringe when someone on one of those fly fishing TV shows opens one of the most beautifully organized large fly boxes with at least a dozen flies of every imaginable pattern-organized by size and each completely filling a row. Yikes! Maybe I'm just envious, but after a half-dozen of one pattern, I'm either bored to death or totally frustrated because none of the six is to my liking or standards.

Having confessed my weaknesses, I'll would still suggest to any beginners that you at least try to have some semblance of order to your

approach. If you completely new to the sport then you don't yet have your *favorites*; those patterns that



*Even the sound of a nearby creek can get the juices flowing...*

you can tie without pulling out what little hair you may have left and seem to work well enough to fool a trout or two—from time-to-time. That's good because you're a "clean slate" and can work on your tying in a more methodical way.

It's a good idea to have a *list*! It doesn't have to be fancy— it might even be in the form of Post-it notes stuck in the pages of your fly pattern books. Maybe, the Post-it notes are stuck to the wall next to your tying bench. Any way will work but there's a certain satisfaction picking them off—one-at-a-time.

If your having trouble making a list then I'll just blurt out some of favorites and you can go from there.

Make sure that you have some *Wollybuggers* for sure! I'm not at all sure what they are supposed to represent but they catch fish! I like

to tie mine in olive with a tungsten bead-head. If you can find small hackle; tie them in small sizes.

For dry flies an minimal list would include **#16 & #18 blue-winged olives** followed by **#16 sulphur duns**. You'd be surprised how many local stream are predominated by these mayflies.

For nymphs you should have some *Gold-ribbed hares ears*, some *pheasant-tail nymphs*, and a *stonefly* pattern or two. A *zebra nymph* can be effective, at times as well.

Wet flies are making a comeback and the field is pretty wide open here. A plain old fashion March Brown, is a must and a personal favorite of mine is a



*Here's a few flies drying and headed for the fly box*

Catskill which can work during a caddis hatch but is really just an attractor pattern that works under many varied conditions.

-Editor 🐟



## MAIN LINE FLY-TYERS

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

Club Officers:  
President: Frank Howard  
Vice Pres.: Mike Ebner  
Treasurer: Jim Costello  
Newsletter: Dwaine Glidden  
Secretary: Al Kotake  
Librarian: Ed Sclarow  
Website: Mike Ebner

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

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.mainlineflytyers.net](http://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.

## Looking Ahead—what's in store for the Tulephocken? ...

It has come to the attention of the club (via an Email from member Fran Quinn) that the fall fingerling stocking of the Tulephocken Creek has been terminated as of 2008. Although it's hard to say (at this point) what the effect will be, it seems that this change in long-time tradition will certainly be felt. In the Email to Fran (authored by: Michael Kaufmann of the PFBC) the emphasis seems to have turned from *what is good for the fishery* to a *cost effective* policy.

It's a sad sign-of-the-times that cost has become the driver but sometimes the "cure is worse than the cough". In the Email the alternative offered is to

"experiment" by fall-stocking adult fish. This may please some of the "truck-chasers" but the impact on the hold-over resident trout could be devastating!

Here's some background and some personal observations on the Tully:

My original knowledge of the creek was based on what I read in Charles Meck's Pennsylvania Trout Streams and their Hatches first edition. In it he accounts in chapter 4 the great virtues of this nearly urban stream; located just north of Redding, PA. Intrigued by his praises of the great success of the *fall fingerling stocking* and encouraged by former MLFT president, Dave Baker, I

was motivated to give it a try. Needless to say, I've been back many times since (Ref. our newsletter dated December 2008). Without giving extensive details, I can only say that a good resident population of hold-over trout *still exists*. Just don't try to land them on tricos—which they gulp, at will, during the hatch. Your 8X leader won't hold! -but it's fun to try anyway!

According to our bylaws the objective of our club is "... to promote the sport of fly fishing and the art of fly tying." We seldom get entangled in issues of this type. Here we raise a concern and hope wisdom will prevail. 🍄

# THE SOURCE

THESE PAGES ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MEMBERS AND SPONSORS WITH A LOCATION ONTO WHICH THEY CAN POST ITEMS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO CLUB MEMBERS.

IT WILL BE PROVIDED AS A COURTESY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE ITEMS SHOWN. IT WILL BE A BULLETIN BOARD FORMAT AND SHOULD INCLUDE ITEMS FOR SALE, EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS, PHONE NUMBERS OF AGENCIES, AND WILL BE OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS.

CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS AND OPINIONS ARE BETTER ADDRESSED IN THE WEBSITE "FORUM".

THE EDITOR REQUESTS THAT ADVERTISEMENTS BE SUPPLIED IN THEIR FINAL CONFIGURATION AND EMAILED AS AN ATTACHMENT SO THEY CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND DIRECTLY INSERTED, AS RECEIVED.

THIS IS BEING DONE ON A TRIAL BASIS AND WILL BE MAINTAINED IF INTEREST JUSTIFIES ITS CONTINUATION



### **Call for wild game recipes:**

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with our members, send it in and we'll post it in one of the future newsletters-along with a credit for the one who provided their "secret recipe" to share with the world.

# Wild Game Recipes

## Recipe for trout on the grill:

This is a very simple and easy recipe for any good-sized trout that found its way into your freezer. The club fully endorses catch-and-release fishing practice, especially if your fishing for native fish and you want to keep your catch's DNA in the gene pool. Sometimes a badly hooked fish should be kept or a trout or two from a heavily stocked *delayed harvest* area won't hurt the fishery, at all. Try to turn back any "holdover" trout that you catch in the delayed harvest areas—you'll know them by their fully developed fins and unmarked features.

1. Use some sea salt and fresh ground pepper on the inside and outside of the trout's flesh.
2. Place lots of capers and some fresh sliced lemon in the open cavity.
3. Wrap the trout with flavored grape leaves (they come in a 8 oz. jar). Secure the leaves with toothpicks or string for this purpose.
4. Cook in a closed grill over a medium-hot coal bed. Start your grill using kindling and not liquid lighter, if possible. Use some flavor wood chunks (apple wood is good, if available).

Provided by Dwaine Glidden

Ps. Consider a side of fresh asparagus cooked on the grill in foil

# Notice

## 2009-2010 - Fly Tying & Tactics and Strategies Classes

The MLFT club offers two classes for beginning through advanced fly tyers.. Classes are held twice a year. There is a fall session in October and the winter session starts in January. The tying class has multiple instructors available and ready to teach and coach beginners, novice, intermediate and advanced tyers. The Tactics and Strategy class includes particular tips for fishing the Upper Delaware River.

### FLY-TYING



If you're interested in fly-fishing and fly-tying, this is the course you've been waiting for. Don't wait; be ready for opening day. Learn how to create wet flies, dry flies, nymphs, streamers, and bass bugs. Suggestions for tools and materials will be given at the first class. Advanced instruction will also be available for experienced tyers wishing to advance their fly-tying skills.

#### Upper Moreland classes:

The class meets on Thursdays and includes 6 class sessions at the Upper Moreland High School, Room 608.

Winter Class (2010): Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb 11, Feb 17 (Wed), Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 - at HS Rm. 608 7:00-9:00

Instructors: Sam Vigorita & Dave Shillington, Main Line Fly Tyers Club

#### Lower Providence class:

The class meets on Tuesdays at Lower Providence Township Administration building starting on March 9. The class runs for six weeks.

Details will be posted on [http://www.lowerprovidence.org/parks\\_recreation.htm](http://www.lowerprovidence.org/parks_recreation.htm)

Instructors: Mike Ebner & Ed Emery

### FLY-FISHING TACTICS/STRATEGIES

Improve your skills and catch more fish! Learn how to "read" the waters of a trout stream. Find out where fish live, how to approach them, and how to catch them. Know what they feed on and learn the types of flies to use at different times of the year. Become a better fisherman and reduce your chances of coming up empty. The instructor is one of the area's most successful trout anglers and has logged literally thousands of hours fishing and instructing on East Coast trout and salmon waters.

The class meets on Tuesdays and includes 5 class sessions at the Upper Moreland High School, Room 608

Winter Class (2010): Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb 16, Feb 23, and Mar. - 2 in Rm. 608 from 7:00-9:00pm

Instructor: Sam Vigorita, Main Line Fly Tyers Club

#### Registration

The cost for each class is \$47. To register call the Upper Moreland Parks and Recreation Dept. at 215-659-3100 x1039 or 267-607-1038





# Upcoming Events

**Southeast PA Opening day - April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 at 8:00 AM**

**Not a scheduled Club Event**

**Learn to fish Day – April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 9:00 AM**

- ✦ Resica Falls Scout Camp
- ✦ Coffee in the AM
- ✦ Lunch Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda

**Optional: For Cabin information call Scout Headquarters at 610-688-6900**

**Northeast PA Opening day - April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 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**

**Stick day – April 24<sup>th</sup> 2010**

- ✦ Brodhead Creek, Stroudsburg, PA
- ✦ Meet for lunch at the Park right under the Rt 191 bridge

**Lunch Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda**

**Delaware River - June 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2010**

- ✦ 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 11, 12**

- ✦ Make reservations at The Feathered Hook, Colburn PA 1-814-349-8757
- ✦ Breakfast included
- ✦ Sleep two to a room and two rooms share a bath
- ✦ Local Restaurants for dinner, pay for what you order, or Grill at the Feathered Hook, everyone splits the cost

**Guides available, Contact Feathered Hook**

# From our friends at French Creek Outfitters:



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### **Our store hours are:**

**Monday** 10 am - 6 pm

**Tuesday - Friday** 10 am - 9 pm

**Saturday** 10 am - 6 pm

**Sunday** 10 am - 5 pm

## Contact

**French Creek Outfitters** is Open 7 Days a Week.  
Located just West of Phoenixville,  
in the Shoppes at Valley Forge, Next to Staples

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Phone: 610-933-7200  
Email: [info@frenchcreekoutfitters.com](mailto:info@frenchcreekoutfitters.com)

### Our store hours are:

Monday	10 am - 6 pm
Tuesday - Friday	10 am - 9 pm
Saturday	10 am - 6 pm
Sunday	10 am - 5 pm

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# Some Local Shops

<p><b>Clouser Fly Fishing</b> 101 Ulrich Street Middletown, PA 17057 717-944-6541</p>	<p>Evening Hatch 5 Rt. 940 East Lake Harmony, PA 18624 570-443-0772</p>	<p><b>Little Lehigh Fly Shop</b> <b>RD 2 Fish Hatchery Road</b> <b>Allentown, PA 18103</b> <b>610-797-5599</b></p>
<p>Mainstream Outfitters 1121 N. Easton Rd Doylestown, PA 1890 215-766-1244</p>	<p>Slate Run Tackle Shop PO Box 1 Route 414 Slate Run, PA 17769 570-753-8551</p>	<p>TCO Fly Shop 895 Penn Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 610-527-3388</p>
<p>TCO Fly Shop 2229 Penn Ave. Reading, PA 19609 610-678-1899</p>	<p><b>The Feathered Hook</b> <b>516 Main Street</b> <b>Colburn, PA 16832</b> <b>814-349-8757</b></p>	<p>Wilderness Trekker, Inc. 22 Hughes Street RR3 Box 3 New Ringgold, PA 17960 570-943-3151</p>
<p>Yellow Breeches Outfitters 2 First Street, PO Box 200 Boiling Springs, PA 17007 717-258-6752</p>	<p>A.A. Outfitters HC Box 1030 Blakeslee, PA 18610 800-443-8119</p>	<p>Anglers Pro Shop 3361 Bethlehem Pike Soudertown, PA 18964 800-934-4862</p>
<p><b>French Creek Outfitters</b> <b>Rt. 23</b> <b>Phoenixville, PA</b> <b>610-933-7200</b></p>	<p><b>The Sporting Gentleman</b> <b>300 W. State Street</b> <b>Media, PA 19603</b> <b>610-565-6140</b></p>	<p><b>Franks Fly Fishing Shoppe</b> <b>7906 High School Road, 2nd floor</b> <b>Elkins Park, PA 19027</b> <b>267-475-6055</b></p>
<p><b>Classic Fly Fisherman</b> <b>222 S. Broad Street</b> <b>Lansdale, PA 19446</b> <b>(215)412-3667</b></p>	<p><b>The Delaware River Club</b> <b>1228 Winterdale Road</b> <b>Starlight, PA 18461</b> <b>570-635-5880</b></p>	

