



# Main Line Fly Tyers 2010-2011

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## Henry Ramsay - Tier - Guide - Author - Presenter - Photographer

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Henry Ramsay

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I caught my first trout more years ago than I care to admit, and the magic of catching fish has not faded with time or with repetition. My journey in the world of fly fishing began in my boyhood over thirty five years ago when as I first saw someone fishing with flies they tied themselves. That image was mesmerizing and still remains clear in my mind today. From that day on I've always been a fly tier. The connection between fly fishing, tying flies and the world of the trout is a natural one and the simple beauty of a well crafted fly; built from feathers, furs and fibers and designed for a moment when hatching flies fill the evening air over a pool dimpled by the spreading rings of rising fish is a never ending source of satisfaction and amazement. My career as a fly fisherman began several years later.

Today, I wear many hats, website owner, Henry Ramsay Flies and Photography; a labor of love, fly tier, angler, author

and guide. My fly tying is a near daily activity for me and the focus has always been on learning new ways to imitate nature or to improve on older designs. While I tie nearly every variety of freshwater fly; I've always been partial to developing flies that mimic the stages of natural aquatic insects and create patterns to match their unique behaviors and characteristics. Growing up in the east and fishing all over my home state of Pennsylvania as well as in New York, Maryland and Colorado has been a lifetime of enjoyment and experience in fishing a diverse range of waters and the insect hatches they produce. The legendary spring creeks of the Cumberland Valley, the storied rivers of the Catskills, the mountain brooks of the Poconos and Appalachians of north-central, Pennsylvania, along with the tail waters has provided a great opportunity to develop, test and refine my fly patterns to match their hatches and the unique demands these different water types and their fish present to the angler

For years I have been a custom fly-tier tying flies for trout, Atlantic Salmon and clas-



sic and artistic full dress salmon flies; and my first book "Matching Major Eastern Hatches, New Patterns for Selective Trout" was released by Stackpole / Headwater Books in January 2011. My tying work has previously appeared in the Game Journal, the Art of Angling Journal and the Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide. I also teach fly tying, beginner fly fishing schools and guide fisherman on my local streams through TCO Fly Shop based in Reading, Pennsylvania

Fly fishing is a way of life for me and my pursuit of it takes many shapes and forms. Nearly every day finds me engaged in it in some form; from fishing, to tying flies, to photographing stream insects, developing and testing new fly patterns to teaching someone else how to enjoy the sport more.

Visit our website: [MainLineFlyTyers.net](http://MainLineFlyTyers.net)

## Club News

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**Increase in Sales of PA fishing licenses could signal trend.** According to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette the state Fish and Boat Commission has sold about 22 per cent more fishing licenses than at this time last year. This could potentially put an additional 60,000 anglers on Pennsylvania waters. Fishing license sales have fluctuated about 4 percent in each of the last several years. A jump of 22 percent is unusual. Some have pointed to the warm weather as a reason for the jump, but if the numbers hold it would mark a reversal in a 20-year trend away from outdoor participation.

## Shortnose Sturgeon have been spotted in the Lower Delaware River

The Shortnose sturgeon have begun their annual spawning run in the lower Delaware River. Large numbers have been spotted this spring, which is encouraging given that the Shortnose sturgeon are an endangered species.

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### Penns Creek Update

As you are reading this many club members are probably still enroute from the Coburn area. Thirteen members showed up for the annual Penns Creek/Feathered Hook weekend fish-a-thon. Although Penns Creek was unfishable due to heavy thunderstorm, Spring and Bald Eagle creeks were in excellent shape any many fish were had. I even caught a fifteen inch rainbow. You will hear all about the rip at the next meeting. Much thanks to Steve Largent for pulling it all together.

Fishing footwear containing absorbent material, such as shoe laces, felt-soled waders and boots, poses a high risk of aquatic organism transfer. If cleaning or drying is not practical, restrict equipment to a single waterway. ( see wader drying and cleaning tips on page 4)

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## Club News

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### **Large Blooms of Didymo, aka “Rock Snot,” Discovered in the Delaware River. Anglers are Encouraged to Vigilantly Clean Equipment to Prevent the Spread of this Invader**

Dr. Erik Silldorff, an aquatic biologist with the commission, on April 18, 2012, discovered large Didymo blooms in the Delaware River over a 40-mile stretch extending from the area near the confluence with the Lackawaxen River (river mile 279) downstream to the vicinity of Dingmans Ferry Bridge (river mile 239). This section of river includes portions of two National Park units: the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

“We knew Didymo occurred in the river,” Dr. Silldorff said, “but the spatial extent and intensity of this bloom is alarming given its potentially detrimental effect on ecosystems and the ease in which it can be spread to nearby tributaries.”

Didymo covers rock surfaces in cold, moderate to fast flowing water. Since 2007, Didymo has been found at low concentrations during the summer months from around Hancock, N.Y., downstream to the area around Dingmans Ferry, Pa., with high-density patches frequently observed in the cold-water zones of the East and West branches of the Delaware River, as well as in the colder zones of the upper main stem river.

Following the recent discovery, scientists with the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection over this past week independently documented Didymo blooms extending north of the area discovered by Silldorff to Callicoon, N.Y. (river mile 303) as well as from Long Eddy, N.Y. (river mile 315) upstream into the East and West branches of the Delaware River (upstream of river mile 330). Each biologist noted that the intensity was variable, with some areas having dense coverage, while other sites or locations only having relatively small patches. Regardless, these findings indicate that the blooms of Didymo now extend across more than 100 miles of river.

While Didymo is not a public health hazard, there is great ecological concern with discovering the invasive alga to this extent and in these concentrations. Thick mats of Didymo can crowd out or smother more biologically valuable algae growing on the riverbed, thereby significantly altering the physical and biological conditions within a stream.

Additionally, Didymo can easily attach to any fishing equipment, especially felt-soled boots, and the chance of it hitchhiking its way into nearby streams or rivers that currently lack this unwanted invader is cause for alarm. The risk is compounded by the bloom's timing with the beginning of trout season, when anglers flock to the river in large numbers. This spring's warm weather and low flows are bringing out even more fishing enthusiasts, further amplifying the concern for spread.

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## Tips for Cleaning Waders

**These instructions for decontaminating felt soled waders and boots and other absorbent materials are recommended by the Kennebec, Maine Chapter of Trout Unlimited.**

**Hot Water** If hot water alone is used, careful attention is needed to ensure the temperature of the water is maintained at no less than 45 °C for 40 minutes to ensure the interior of the felt reaches a sufficient temperature to kill all cells;

**Hot water and detergent** The entire felt sole and boot needs to be completely immersed for 30 minutes in hot tap water kept above 45 °C (uncomfortably hot to touch) containing 5% dishwashing detergent or diaper cleaner;

**Salt water soak in a personal washing station:** A 5-gallon pail makes a great Personal Washing Station for your gear. Mix a 5% saltwater solution by adding 3-cups of salt to 4-gallons of water.

The entire felt sole and boot needs to be completely immersed for 3 minutes. Waders should be dunked repeatedly to assure saltwater comes in contact with all areas of the wader that were wetted while wading. Wader belts should be soaked with the boots. The soles of Bootfoot waders should be soaked for 3 minutes before dunking the upper parts of the waders.

**Freeze until solid** The time required until the boot is frozen solid will vary depending upon the grade of material, how much moisture it contains and the efficiency of the freezer. Freezing overnight should work in most instances.

**Drying fully:** Relying on ambient drying as a stand-alone treatment for decontaminating highly absorbent, high risk goods such as felt-soled waders and boots is not recommended in situations where use between waterways is frequent (daily, weekly or even monthly).

Drying should only be relied upon as a decontamination treatment if great care is taken to actively and completely dry the felt (such as by using a heat source where temperatures around the felt are assured of reaching 30 °C). Once the felt appears dry, complete dryness must be confirmed by a tactile inspection of the felt pile to the base of the fibers. Once completely dry, items must remain dry for at least 48 hours before use in another waterway.

## Upcoming Events

**The Upper Delaware** Camping trip is scheduled for the weekend of June 1-3 this year. This is a great chance to bond with your club members. The Delaware should be in fine shape and the campground at Equinunk is beautiful.

Details as follows:

Pleasant Valley camp ground - Linda, 570-224-4083, Equinunk PA

Bring your own food

Must arrange own tenting/Sleeping arrangements

Will break up in groups to fish

Saturday night –Pig Roast



**The Club needs flies for shows and charitable donations. Last year we donated several hundred to the Boy Scouts of America and sold hundreds more at the shows. Members are encouraged to bring flies to our meetings. For every six you donate to the Club you will receive a free raffle ticket for that night. (limit two tickets per night.)**

## The Northwest Territories by Rick Say

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Canada's champion biting insect is the small but painful black fly. These critters are not nice!. As the experts at Agriculture Canada put it, "in the forested parts of the Canadian Shield in June and July members of the *Simulium Venustum* species complex can be so numerous and can attack so persistently that outdoor activity during the day without some protection becomes almost impossible." Their numbers, and their tendency to bite, increase as sunset approaches. Moose and people are their best-known victims, but their favorite targets are actually birds. There are more species of black flies than of mosquitoes in Canada; over 100 have already been recorded.



Although they cannot bite through clothing, black flies have a predilection for crawling into hair or under clothing, biting in inaccessible places, such as the ankles and belt line. Tucking trouser cuffs into socks will normally prevent them from getting at the ankles. Black flies are strongly influenced by color - they find dark hues more attractive than pale ones, and blue, purple, brown, and black more attractive than white or yellow. A light-colored shirt, therefore, is a much better choice of clothing than a dark blue one. Black flies are small enough to pass through window screens or come indoors on or in the hair. . Repellents containing "DEET" formulations are not very effective for prevention of black fly bites. Individuals wearing DEET may actually have more black flies attracted to them than individuals not wearing DEET

I did not know any of this when the black flies descended on our group. The weather was warm and the bugs were thick. After ten days in the bush the notorious black flies finally came out and with a vengeance. We have to wear head nets all the time while we are walking around camp. Eating is real tough because you have to take the head nets off and the bugs swarm all over you. Alex said you got to find a breeze. Then stick your chin up in it and quickly shove some food in you mouth.. The black flies get all over you and bite like a son of a gun. There best trick is to crawl up your socks and bite you on the shins. Alex gave us a can of Raid to spray inside the tent, and I have been putting on so much insect repellent that the backs of my hands are starting to turn purple.

Once we got moving in the canoes the bugs thinned out. After crossing a big lake we spotted a moose eating near the shore. It started moving out towards the open water and did not see us. We were coming up wind so it did not smell or hear us either. When the moose finally did see us it was too late to go back so it tried to swim out to a little island. We set off in hot pursuit. I got within ten feet of it before it scampered off into the bush. We then stopped for lunch and a big storm blew up. While we were waiting out the heaviest rains one of the canoes blew loose and started drifting out into open water. Me and another guy jumped into my canoe and rescued it to the applause of the rest. My victory was short lived , however, because as I was getting out of the canoe I slipped and fell into the lake and the applause quickly turned to laughter.

That night it got real cold and the sun didn't set. The sky just got all red and stayed that way until morning. Alex lost his mirror in the water while shaving and he had to dive in to get it. Forty degree water at 7:00 in the morning will wake you up! We broke camp and hiked to a wolf den. It was inactive. So we moved on. After a morning of hard canoeing we came to a waterfall which we had to portage. In an eddy at the bottom of the falls we found a fifty-five gallon drum of airplane fuel. Alex and I pushed it out into the current so that it would float down to the middle of a lake and the pilots could get at it. We then had a two mile paddle across the lake to our campsite. Along the way a water spout blew up on the far side of the lake. Very scary but a pretty sight! We made camp in good shape and had a trout dinner that night.

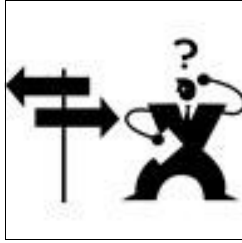
## **2011-2012 Meetings and Events**

June 1th –3rd

Upper Delaware Camping Trip

June 21th

MLFT Meeting    Guest Speaker : Tom Gilmore



Directions to:

**Greater Plymouth Community Center**  
**2910 Jolly Rd, Plymouth Meeting PA 19462**  
**610-277-4312**

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.

<u><b>Club Officers</b></u>		<u><b>Coordinators</b></u>	
President :Steve Nack	President@mainlineflytyers.net	Librarian :	Ed Sclarow
Vice President :Chris McGeehan	VP@mainlineflytyers.net	Web Guy :	Mike Ebner
Treasurer :Jim Costello	Treasurer@mainlineflytyers.net	Newsletter :	Rick Say
Secretary :Rick Say	Secretary@mainlineflytyers.net	Refreshments :	Jerry Usatch
			Kathleen McKenzie
<u><b>Board Members</b></u>			
Steve Nack	Ed Emery	Raffle :	Ed Emery
Dave Shillington	Rick Say	Unsung Hero's :	Elsa Zumstein
Sam Vigorita	Kurt Griffin		Steve Ellis
Jim Costello	Mike Ebner		Al Katoke
Chris McGeehan			
<i><b>Newsletter@mainlineflytyers.net</b></i>			
<i><b>Feel free to contact us at any time</b></i>			