



Editor's Eddy

For the last couple of months, I've been unable to get out issues of this newsletter – or, for that matter, do much of anything of use, except catch up on reading. Don Arthurs thoughtfully dropped off a pile of fly fishing-related books, including all of John Gierach's titles, which has not only kept me occupied, but also amused. There has also been lots of time for *ennui* and totally idle speculation. So, allow me ...

Mankind's innate curiosity for the unknown has generated a lot of media (and general public) attention for NASA's latest space endeavour. Two rovers, *Spirit* and *Opportunity*, are currently ambling across the landscape of Mars and beaming back breathtaking images. As a geologist, I am entertained by the speculations of planetary scientists on the origins of what we're able to see, and what they hope the mission will find. There is consensus that a lot of the physiographic features of Mars were caused by water flowing in the distant past when the planet had some kind of atmosphere. The rovers are looking for evidence of water, amongst other things. Water may mean previous life and a Martian biosphere of sorts, so a bonus would be the discovery of microfossils such as bacteria.

Now, hang on. It's pretty cold on Mars, and probably always has been even if there had been an atmosphere. But if cold water flowed, and if there was life, let's be optimistic and hope for fossils of something larger than single-celled creatures like slime mould or algae. Cold-water fish, perhaps? Maybe one of the vehicles will transmit pictures of fossils of – why not? – an extinct trout-like species. How about naming it *Salvelinus martinalis*? Maybe there will even be the desiccated remains of ancient but advanced bug-eyed humanoids, high-tech angling apparatus still firmly gripped by bony appendages. Maybe, a billion years ago they heard about the great fishing in untouched Martian streams and beamed themselves (from Saturn or a neighbouring solar system?) for a week of first-rate angling. And their luck just plain ran out.

I think I've seen too many Star Trek reruns. Time to get out of the house!

Bob Kuehnbaum, February 25, 2004

DON'T FORGET!

2004 CANADIAN FLY FISHING FORUM

Dates: March 27 and 28, 2004

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Toronto.

And remember: Your assistance during the show would be invaluable and greatly appreciated. Please contact Ken Geddes (416-757-2084) or the club phone number (905-276-6345).

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Quotable / Notable Quotes

Fly-Fishing helps you understand just how unimportant your big real life problems really aren't.

– Keith Myers, *The Little Trout Fly-Fishing Book (Wisdom Handed Down Through the Ages)*

From now on, nothin' for me but fishin'! And no more wabbits!

– Elmer Fudd

Club Executive

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Vice-President: Bob Kuehnbaum
Treasurer: Ken O'Brien
Beginners Tying: Pierre Turgeon
Forum Chair: Ken Geddes
Program Chair: Don Arthurs
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President's Message

Credit Valley Conservation Awards

Ted Armstrong

I am pleased to announce that **Bob Kuehnbaum**, our Conservation Chair for the last six years, has been awarded **The Award of Distinction** by the Credit Valley Conservation at their annual *Caring for the Credit Stewardship Forum and Awards Dinner* on November 22, 2003. The purpose of the awards is to recognize those individuals, landowners, community groups, small businesses and corporations, or municipalities and agencies that have made a significant contribution to natural resource management in the Credit Valley watershed.

The Award of Distinction is presented to those outstanding individuals or groups whose projects or activities require a significant contribution of personal time or resources and reflect a significant long-term contribution to the conservation of the watershed. Bob was one of five recipients for 2003. The following is from a press release by the CVC:

"Although Bob was unable to make the awards event, his long-term dedication to the protection and restoration of the Credit River fishery was still acknowledged. Bob ... was an active participant in the Credit River Fisheries Management Planning process. He has tirelessly worked the phones to get volunteers for CVC workdays and coordinates several of them along the Credit River every year. Bob was fundamental in securing Trillium funding for the Upper Credit Rehabilitation

Initiative. ... Bob is one of CVC's best volunteers and supportive allies and is the epitome of commitment."

The "Certificate of Merit" recognizes those who improve the health of the Credit River. One of nine 2003 recipients, the **De Giusti Family** have been active stewards of the Credit River on their property in Caledon (part of the Sligo TUC agreement waters) and throughout the upper Credit River area. Roy De Giusti is a director of the Greg Clark Chapter of TUC, our most important conservation partner.

On behalf of the IWFFC, I would like to congratulate Bob and the De Giusti Family and everyone else nominated for their contributions to the natural resource management in the Credit Valley watershed.

Library News

Pat Kelly

The club has in its possession thirteen old three-quarter inch video tapes. At a cost of some ninety dollars the old tapes were transcribed onto conventional video cassettes. One of the tapes was about a one armed golfer and four were damaged beyond repair. The remainder are most interesting.

Dave Whitlock gives basic fly tying instruction and shows how to tie nymph, stonefly, hopper, and sculpin patterns in three tapes from Forum 81. Ted Niemeyer, in a marathon of seven sessions during Forum 82, demonstrates the making of nymph legs, and ties the Hewitt Skater, a squirrel tail skater, Ted's Little Nymph, a Riffle Dun, a hopper, a small salmon fly, and the Ingels Butterfly. Fantastic stuff, all available from your club library!

The *Single Haul* and the *Double Haul* also contain interesting material. It would be nice if old issues were made available to the membership through the club library. Please bring in old issues to be bound and added to the library. Your prized issues will still be available to you. If you bundle them with a note containing your name duplicates will be returned.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

March 2nd: Fly Tying: *Guest Tyer:* Terry Allen will be tying steelhead flies; *Beginners* will be instructed by Pierre Turgeon

March 16th: General Meeting: John Valk of "Grindstone Angling" plans to lead us down southern Ontario rivers in a presentation on drift boat fly fishing.

April 6th: Fly Tying: *Guest Tyer:* Dan Kennaley will demonstrate some of his favourite trout flies; *Beginners* will be instructed by Pierre Turgeon.

April 20th: General Meeting: Mike Zimmer will present the outcome of 1½ years of radio-tracking brown trout on the Credit River.

May 4th: Fly Tying: TBA

Why?

(Origins of Fly Fishing Canada)

Jack Simpson

It started in 1986, when an invitation arrived from England for a Canadian fly fishing team to enter the FIPS-Ed World Fly Fishing Championships (WFFC) in England in the spring of 1987. In our local fly fishing community, there were a few mutterings of disapproval amongst some who weren't fond of the idea of competition in fly fishing.

But I took it upon myself to telephone Tony Pawson, the International Organizer in England who had sent the invitation. During our first hour of conversation it became obvious that there was potentially more to the event than just a competition to catch fish. During the second hour he received a commitment to have some Canadians attend, even if there was not a full team.

Fly Fishing Canada was quickly incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation to facilitate entry into the event. Canada was represented by a full team, along with their wives, making it a grand excuse for a family visit to the historic Test, Itchen and Avon rivers. Phil Kettle, Don Moore and I made up half of the team.

The competition was as deplorable as we had expected. The event was based on catch-and-keep, and, as the trout were kept in plastic bags

until weigh-in at the end of each competition period, they weren't even fit for consumption.

On the other hand, during the social gatherings held each evening, we discovered that members from other countries were interested in exchanging information on conservation, and it was quickly established that many favoured changing the competitions to catch-and-release.

By the end of 1987, under pressure from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Championships Committee authorized Australia to hold a catch-and-release WFFC in Tasmania in 1988.

The Championships following from 1989 to 1992 were all based on catch-and-release, and each year the Competition Rules and the Statutes were improved in order to provide a more level playing field for all members.

In 1993, the 13th FIPS-Mouche WFFC was held in Kamloops, British Columbia. It seems appropriate that this was the site where the Modification Rules were altered to permanently include fish-friendly, catch-and-release Competition Rules.

A full day Conservation Symposium was also introduced at the 1993 Kamloops event, and there has been one at every WFFC since then. The Conservation Symposium became a requirement for any country applying to host a WFFC with FIPS-Mouche.

This brought the annual events full circle, with each WFFC being the vehicle to bring twenty or more countries together, where members can learn about conservation activities in the host country, and discuss their own activities, problems and potential solutions.

WFFCs are strong forums at which to exchange techniques and innovations in fly fishing, and it is almost amusing to note that the advances in European tactics and methodology indicate not only how much North American fly fishers have yet to learn, but also how quickly we seem to be falling behind.

As we have an international forum for the exchange of fly fishing techniques and conservation, why not establish an annual event to bring fly fishers together from across Canada? We can, and the 1st Fly Fishing Canada National Fly Fishing Championships and Conservation Symposium (held last summer in Manitoba) was designed to provide the opportunity.

That is WHY!

Guest Tyer John Mangold: Doing a “Hands-On” Effort

Review by Mark Skursky

John Mangold was the guest tyer at the December 2nd tying meeting. The theme of the evening was vise-free tying of some ancient patterns.

John began with a nice overview of some of the basic literature on tying without a vise. He paid some homage to Dame Juliana Berners' fifteenth century *Treatise of Fishing with an Angle* and Cotton's enhancement of latter editions of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*, explaining that the flies they outlined could be subject to debate with respect to how they might look when tied several hundred years later; there are variations on themes. He referenced a few other English texts, John McDonald's *Quill Gordon* (1972), and Lee Wulff's book of fly tying wherein Lee demonstrates how to tie – what else? – a Wulff without a vise. (Interestingly, one of the observers had seen Lee Wulff tie one some years ago at an IWFFC Forum.) I was pleased to see that John had connected together all of the tying and the history; which led to a very appreciative audience.

For visual aids John distributed handouts from the various books so that the audience could have the original twelve patterns and colour sketches of the finished flies.

John showed a few basic tricks to those who didn't know the pinch technique, or how to prevent material from rolling. He then demonstrated tying one of Berners' twelve basic flies (one for each month of the year) – the Black Leaper which was an early season (May) fly. Here are the ingredients:

Hook: Mustad 3366: 1x long, straight eye, wide gap and regular wire

Body: un-dyed black wool from a black sheep, palmered with a peacock herl rope created from a couple of strands of peacock herl

Wing: reddish brown wing quill

Thread: black silk 3/0

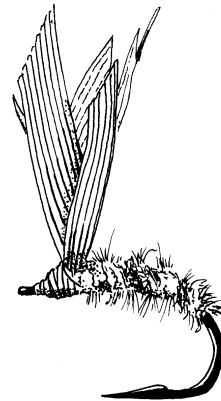
The process follows the basic vise tying methods of laying down a base of thread, then tying in the body and ribbing materials followed by tying in the wing. But all has to be laid out and organized beforehand since, once you have begun, it's difficult to put down the fly to deal with materials. One must also be particular about the length of thread started off with since there is no bobbin feeding endless

supplies of thread. Also, John uses a special blend of wax to pre-wax the thread to aid in the tying process. The basic overhand knot or half-hitch is used to secure material to provide some freedom of arm from stage to stage. Berners' flies fundamentally consist of a body of wool or silk with a rib of thread or silk, and a basic wing of duck or turkey, or occasionally hackle tips

John's basic premise when he began to explore flies tied in this fashion was a desire to be on a stream and match the hatch then and there. This is admirable, but given that it took me quite a while to tie even one fly (a July Wasp), any hatch would be over before I ever completed a fly.

He also demonstrated and allowed us to use a simple tool he'd made up for sectioning off exactly the same sized wing quill sections which he'd made from balsa wood and a four straight pins; it works marvelously.

And in seemingly no time, the session was over. All in all, it was a very enjoyable guest tyer session. It seems that everyone at or near the table enjoyed it, and the discussion on hooks for such tying carried over to the pub later. Can't get better than that!



Editor's Note: The sketch above is based on a painting by J.L. Howard of 'The Black Leaper' in Quill Gordon by John McDonald (1972). The description given by Berners is as follows: "The blacke louver, the body of blacke wull & lappyd abowte with the herle of y^e peacock tayle: & the wynges of y^e redde capon wt a blewe heed."

The Oldest Fly

Klaas Oswald, Sault Fly Anglers

Nowadays we take modern materials in tackle and flies for granted. We use rods of which technology derives from the space program, and fly tying materials that are based on the latest plastic product of the in petrochemical laboratory's test tube. We tend to think that it was already long ago, when rods made of fiberglass first appeared in the 1940's, and rods of carbon fibre (graphite) about 1975. We also look back with nostalgia at the Golden Age of coaster brook trout fishing with bright, colourful flies and bamboo rods which took place a hundred years ago here on Lake Superior.

Actually, fly fishing and fly tying have ancient roots. The first metal hooks were made of copper and gold, both malleable metals, over 3,000 years ago. There is a hint in ancient Chinese manuscripts that kingfisher feathers may have been tied to bronze hooks about 2,500 years ago, but, there is no evidence that a distinct evolution of fly fishing and fly making took place there at that time.

In Europe, the first mention of fishing with artificial flies is in a poem by a Spanish-born Roman named Martial, who wrote:

*Who has not seen the scarus rise,
Decoyed and caught with fraudulent flies.*

In a book written about a century and half later in 300 A.D., the Roman Claudius Aelianus wrote of trout fishing in the streams of Macedonia in northern Greece, using a fly made of ruby red wool and rooster feathers.

The next link is in German texts from the early Middle Ages and onward, that report fishing for trout and grayling using a "vederangle" or "feathered hook." The first reference is found in a romance written around 1210 by Wolfram von Eschenbach, in which the hero wades a river barefoot to fish trout and grayling with a fly.

Apparently, other old texts since 1360 identify fly fishing as the "method chosen by people," across a wide area of Europe. A Bavarian manuscript from the late 1400's includes 50 fly patterns for everything from carp and burbot to trout and salmon.

There are also a dozen old manuscripts documenting fly fishing in Great Britain in the 1300's and 1400's, but none of these texts describe explicitly the techniques used. They do, however, indicate that fly fishing was practiced on a relatively large scale and with a certain degree of sophistication. In about 1450, Dame Juliana Berners, the prioress of the Benedictine nunnery of Sopwell in England, in a book

of outdoor sports (hunting and falconry) included a chapter on fly fishing and fly patterns for different seasons. Such detail is good evidence that fly patterns, and therefore fly fishing, had been around already for a long time. Given the generally slow pace of innovation in the Middle Ages, I suspect it took some centuries to make and record the necessary observations and then create lists of fly patterns for different species and for different times of the year. It is also important to note that this knowledge originated from a nunnery. Monasteries and convents were the libraries and the learning centres of their day. Importantly, they maintained and then improved on the knowledge of Roman times that would otherwise have been lost by the barbarian invasions of the fifth century. By 1653, when Englishmen Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton wrote *The Compleat Angler*, there were many patterns, both fancy and imitative. The rush to invent patterns was on!

Produced independently but concurrently in the hill country of northern Spain, a number of manuscripts were dating back to about 1539 describe a wide variety of artificial flies using specialized rooster feathers. Many of these patterns involved the winding of a series of different-patterned hackles around the hook.

Over two thousand years ago, about 200 B.C., another Roman named Theocritus wrote of "the artificial bait suspended from a rod." Now knowing of the unbroken chain of European fly fishing from Roman times directly to today, I believe that Theocritus had to be writing about a fly. There's just no similar chain of Daredevil spoons or Mepps spinners or wooden bass plugs reaching back into antiquity. And I wouldn't be surprised if some archaeologist weren't yet to find, in the lower habitation levels of a European cave, a bronze hook and a feather remnant that pushes the history of fly fishing and fly tying back a few more thousand years.

So just what is the oldest fly? Theocritus didn't say, but Aelianus did. It was made of crimson wool wrapped around a hook, with two wax-coloured (brownish) feathers from a rooster as wings. No one knows if they were tied on as downwings, upwings or spent wings, but by the Middle Ages many similar flies were tied with paired down wings. You probably have the right materials to tie this at home. Pick out a pair of hackles from each side of a cheap rooster neck of the colour usually called "Red Game". At the head, tie this pair of small hackles back to back so they flare out slightly like an insect's wings, about 1½ times the length of the body. Simple and no doubt effective, this fly will give you a direct connection to the earliest flies ever tied.

Over the next few centuries the fly didn't change its materials, but did change its appearance. As noted above, by about 1600 it was common for a single feather to be wound around the hook, but still over the crimson wool body. This took the form of two kinds of fly: the hackle-at-the-head style and the so-called palmer style. While apparently all of the Spanish patterns called for the rooster hackles to be wound on, the majority of what Cotton called "flies" had some kind of feather over the back. His patterns with a wound feather were called "hackles."

In the one style, the Red Game hackle is wound a few times at the head of the fly, which is still how we tie on hackles for the most part today. This style of fly with red body and brown hackle became known historically as "the Red Hackle". (By mid-20th century, this same fly in smaller sizes came to be called a "Brown Hackle Red".) In sizes up to 1/0, it featured prominently in the fly catalogues and fly lists for coaster brook trout on Lake Superior and the Nipigon River a century ago. I have no doubt that in smaller sizes it would work just dandy on the local trout streams.

The latter style, where the hackle is wound over the whole red body like a fuzzy caterpillar, is known as the Red Palmer or the Soldier Palmer, because British soldiers had bright red uniform jackets. It is clearly the precursor to the Woolly Worm and its offspring, the Woolly Bugger.

The literature makes it clear that these flies were designed to be "dapped" onto the water surface on cloudy, windy days. The fly was dangled on a horsehair line as long as the rod (about 15 ft) and since there is no mention of any kind of fly floatant – for instance mutton fat – the fly would have sunk fairly quickly and been retrieved in jerks using the rod tip.

Some dark and cold winter night, when fly fishing is only a memory kept alive by the hopes of the season to come, I will tie some of these flies and add them to my wet fly collection. And, I will fish them one pleasant summer day and try to catch a trout with this "bait fallacious" from the past.

So just how would we go about to tie this oldest known pattern? Ancient fly tyers would have held an eye-less "spade end" hook in the hand, to which they would have whipped a horsehair snell as the foundation under the body of the fly. Of course, we would tie it on an eyed hook and in a vise, in the following way:

Aelian's Fly

Hook: wet fly, size 12

Thread: tan 3/0 (the thread would likely have been made from unbleached linen)

Body: ruby-dyed wool (strand or dubbed)

Wings: two small, narrow hackles from near the top of the neck of a reddish brown rooster

Dame Juliana Berner's Fly

This is the quotation from her book: "In the beginning of May, a good fly, the body of reddened wool and lapped about with black silk; the wings, of the drake and of the red capon's hackle." Here's my interpretation:

Hook: wet fly, size 12

Thread: tan 3/0

Body: ruby-dyed wool (strand or dubbed)

Rib: black silk floss

Hackle: few turns of brown hackle from a young and therefore soft-hackled rooster

Wings: Mallard flank bunch wing

Izaak Walton's "Ruddy Fly"

He wrote of "The body made of red wool wrapt about with black silk, and the feathers are the wings of the drake: with the feathers of the red capon also, which hang dangling on its sides next to the tail". This fly is like Berners' with two differences: the fly's wings are made of Mallard wing feather slips; and the hackle is from a young rooster saddle.

Cotton's Red Hackle

Hook: wet fly, size 10

Thread: black 3/0

Body: ruby-dyed wool (strand or dubbed)

Hackle: long-stemmed, narrow hackle from a reddish brown rooster neck, tied in at the head.

For those who want to research this aspect of fly fishing more thoroughly, you should access www.flyfishinghistory.com, from which I have gleaned information for this article.

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Rod Draw Winner!

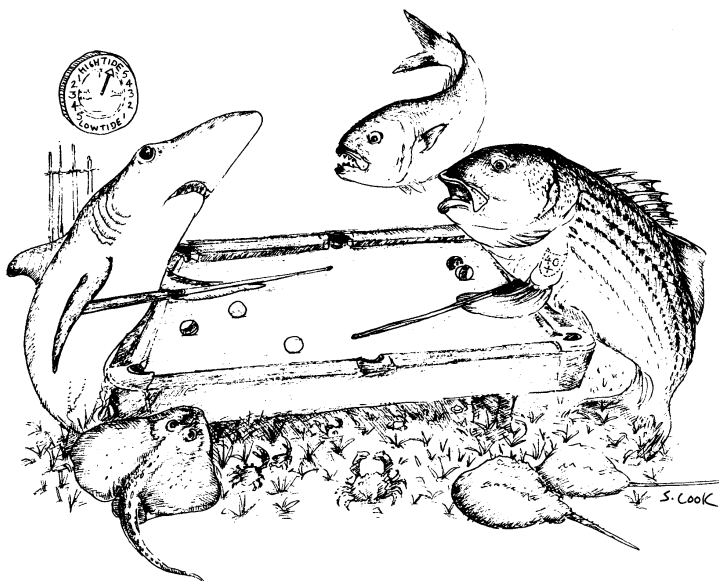
Congratulations to **Sheldon Seale** who won the rod draw at the January 6th meeting. The prize is a **G. Loomis** 7-foot, 3-piece, 3-weight "Stream Dance" rod – a real beauty – with a nylon fabric-covered tube. Enjoy, Sheldon!

A Slack Tide

Or, Ten Things To Do While Waiting For The Tide To Turn

Sharon Cook

If you should happen to be standing in a Cape Cod estuary or other similar oceanic device, presumably fishing – and why else would anyone be standing in and or around the ocean? – when the tide enters a brief interlude between its rising and falling, don't dismay. No, don't fret at the sight of the near-stilling waters lying before you that were an exciting torrent of swelling oceanic currents mere minutes ago but are now shimmering quietly. And when you cast your fly into this placid gap and it travels neither inland nor seaward but sinks unceremoniously to the bottom, this of course, fellow Salties, is the slack tide. But there is opportunity in this small netherworld, this transitional period and important increment that is often observed like a diurnal rite among northeast salt fishers. True, it is said that the fishing "slackens" somewhat during this brief tidal intermission and, yes, that there are fewer baitfish carried on through. But since you never know when, say, you might find a 40-inch-plus striped bass challenging your fly, I am not suggesting that you should necessarily cancel your angling efforts. Only if you are punchy from punching the tide clock too long, or if the performing of simple tasks has entered the realm of the supermundane should you consider temporarily suspending fishing. So here are ten things to do with or without a fly rod:



1. Since this is the time of the "resting" of the tide, why not follow suit? Wouldn't this then be an ideal time to sleep if only for a short nap, which would not allow enough time to enter into the bothersome REM state? Besides, being armed with only two short naps a day would be in keeping with the popular striped slogan put forth by Salty Walton Ken G: "Sleepers don't catch keepers."

2. One could perform all non-fishing and therefore non-essential daily routine activities during this time – like eating. But wouldn't it be far better to use this time more productively, for example to tie flies, consult the tide tables, or clean gear?

3. During a slack tide, why not investigate the local inshore marine fauna. Horseshoe crabs, for instance. Why not create a plight for these mysterious, misunderstood, lonely, prehistoric, intelligent, kind and handsome creatures? Compose a research grant proposal outlining why further investigation is required. And here is a game that's fun for all ages: Leave a boot exposed so that the horseshoe crabs can investigate you. For an extreme version remove your footwear, including socks.

4. Meditate, or pretend to. Fellow anglers will be impressed with your concentration and dedication. Count the waves on the ocean. Be one with the waves. (So there is only one wave?) Enter the dragonfly.

5. Consult the tide tables again. This won't take long and they may appear differently than when you last looked.

6. Clean your sunglasses – if only because they are there.

7. Leave and come back, after challenging the local billiardist and or single malt taster.

8. Chat with your fellow angler. Complain about the slack tide. If you don't know what to say, try: "Slack tide" and "Yup".

9. Since this "window of opportunity" won't last very long, look for never-before-used fly tying material. There is a lot all around you. Really.

10. Sigh. Something like "Ahhhhhh" meaning "It's good to be out fishing," even though you know that a slack tide is by definition a contradiction in terms. Is it not?

Left "Cape Cod Tidal Pool" by Sharon Cook

Three Steps to Fresh Lines

Steve Schweitzer from "On the Fly", the monthly newsletter of the Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette

It pays to clean your fly line after every 3-5 usages or when you've fished particularly muddy, dirty, weedy or mossy water. I just had to retire a fly line that has seen over 150 outings. But I wouldn't have had such good luck with the line had I not taken care of it.

How to tell if a fly line requires cleaning: It's not too difficult. Look for these clues:

- You feel micro-grit on the line as you strip it in
- For floating line, the first few meters of line doesn't float any longer
- The line retains coil memory
- The line has small cracks
- The line feels brittle

If the latter two are noticed, the line is on its last legs. But a cleaning and re-invigoration of the line may add another season of use before you have to replace it.

Materials: The materials are simple: mild dish soap; clean rag; fly line dressing (discussion on this topic below); line winder (optional).

Step 1 – Soaking: Draw a few liters of hot water in a sink. Add just a few drops of mild dish soap. Don't overdo it! All you need is enough to make a few bubbles and help loosen debris. Too much soap will leave a film on the fly line which may help it sink - not good for floating lines!

Strip out all the fly line in loose coils in the sink, ensuring each coil lies on top of the previous. This will help prevent the line from knotting up as it is cleaned in the next step.

Allow the line to soak until the water becomes lukewarm; about 15-30 minutes.

Step 2 – Cleaning: With a clean, moistened rag in one hand, draw the fly line from the sink through the rag. Apply mild pressure with the hand holding the rag to ensure the line is being "stripped" of all the debris and dirt. You'll know if you have enough pressure by hearing the line "squeak" through your hands.

Loosely coil the line on the floor at your feet in preparation for dressing the line with conditioner and allowing the line to dry for a few moments. Tip: As you draw line through the rag, stretch each arm's length section as you would a leader, to straighten out the coils that have built up.

Step 3 – Dressing: Soak another dedicated rag with line conditioner. Apply the line conditioner

in the same manner as the line is cleaned in the step above (use line winder, if you have one). Be generous with the line conditioner; it's the stuff that will help protect the line in future uses.

Fly Line Dressings: Many different manufacturers produce and sell fly line dressings. So, don't be afraid to try any one of them. But I have found over the years a particular product, not even designed for the fly fishing industry, that works quite well: Rain-X windshield dressing. It is safe for plastics, as it clearly says on the bottle. Rain-X repels water on windshields for months on end, so why wouldn't it work for fly lines? Since 1996, I've never had a fly line become brittle or "melt-away" as some fly fishers may warn you of. There may be other products on the market that work just as well. Just one word of caution: Be careful in choosing alternate line dressings not intended for fly lines, and be sure that the product is safe for plastics. If it doesn't say that on the bottle, don't even venture in trying it on fly lines. Products that are silicone-based are your best bets; silicone is fly line friendly.

(Courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

I hadn't heard of Rain-X and can't endorse it, but did find out that it's sold in Canada by S.C. Johnson Company. For many years, I've used the regular fly line conditioner sold in most fly shops; I'm still on the same \$6 bottle – a little goes along way. – Ed.

Notice: Forum Chair Needed

After this year's Forum, Ken Geddes is stepping down as Forum Chair after his second year. The Forum takes a lot of advance planning, and the club needs to locate a new Chair as soon as possible.

If you think that you might be up for this important and challenging position, please get in touch with Ken Geddes (416-757-2084) or the club through the number below, or at a meeting. Your participation would be deeply appreciated.

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