



Editor's Eddy

Well, here it is: the tenth issue of our newsletter for which I am to blame. What started out as a gesture to crank out an issue or two, after a near-absence of them for many months, has turned into a bit of a marathon. I'm still at it, but the good articles and the original artwork which have been submitted by club members have made the load a little lighter. The most challenging and frustrating part, however, is fitting everything neatly into just eight pages; that requires the patience of Job and much mumbling. Sometimes artwork has to end up a little smaller than intended, and articles occasionally must be deferred, but it all gets in - eventually.

On the topic of articles, I can feel a desert breeze blowing in. So I encourage any member with anything to say to put fingers to keyboard or ink to parchment and send it along. Fly patterns, tall tales, almost anything.

The article on page 3 is an abridged version of a longer one by Klaas Oswald from *The Fly Paper*, the periodical of the Sault Fly Anglers in Sault Ste. Marie. Presented here with their permission and with our thanks (and my apologies for the précis), it speaks of fishing for 'coaster' brook trout in Lake Superior in the scarcely imaginable halcyon days of the late 1800's. 'Coasters' are a genetically indistinct strain which spend most of their lives in the near-shore areas of the big lake and then return to tributaries to spawn. Not only is the article of historical interest, but it also rather indelicately reminds us how a fishery, or any resource for that matter, can be seriously downgraded at lightning speed through unbridled rapacity and lack of adequate management. By today's standards, the excesses are stunning.

Erich Eppert, President of Sault Fly Anglers, noted that the 'coasters' are all but extinct along the south shore; along the north shore, they spawn in only about 11 of 68 streams, almost all of which are in the Nipigon Bay area. Erich is a member of the "Coaster Brook Trout Rehabilitation Committee" which is investigating steps to help 'coasters' repopulate their former habitat around Lake Superior. Klaas put the original article together in mind of that growing interest.

It would be interesting to find out if there ever were 'coasters' in Lake Huron.

Bob Kuehnbaum, February 11, 2003

Single Haul[™], the newsletter of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club, is published eight to ten times a year. *Single Haul* is provided free of charge to all club members, and is distributed to clubs, fly shops and other interested individuals.

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Correspondence to the Editor may be sent via fax (905-276-2401), phone (905-276-6684) or e-mail at (r.kuehnbaum@sympatico.ca), or to the address on the last page.

Quotable / Notable Quotes

Fishing seems to me to be divided, like sex, into three most unequal parts, the two larger of which, by far, are anticipation and recollection, and in between, by far the smallest of the three, actual performance.

- Arnold Ginrich

In reference to hatching mayflies: "For a year [they] have crawled around the stream bottom. Today is the day they will sprout wings, fly into the warm air, make love for the first and last time, and then die. How I would like to sprout wings and make love on my last day on earth."

- Peter Kaminsky, *The Fly Fisherman's Guide to the Meaning of Life*, Rodale, 2002.

The New FFF Code of Angling Ethics

The mission of the Federation of Fly Fishers is to lead activities that enhance and support the fly fishing experience for all anglers who fish with the artificial fly. As part of our efforts to educate through fly fishing, we believe that ethical behaviour is a key component of the angling experience. While the need to preserve for all anglers the natural beauty and quality of fisheries for future generations is paramount, consideration for fellow anglers cannot be overlooked.

FFF believes it essential that fly anglers in all waters embrace an ethic that embodies consideration for the environment and for others whether they are fishing or not. This *Code of Angling Ethics* complements the Catch and Release philosophy that is the hallmark of the Federation of Fly Fishers and reflects the importance of ethical behaviour for all anglers. Moreover, it provides a framework for improving the angling experience by combining consideration of the fishery with respectful conduct towards fellow anglers. Overall, the policy denotes a journey in ethical behaviour for fly anglers and not a destination.

Person-to-person and person-to-resource ethics go hand-in-hand. Fly anglers strive to understand and practice the land ethic of Aldo Leopold, which extends ethical consideration to the land, plants, animals, fish, and water that comprise the entire ecosystem. An important part of this land ethic is that fly anglers support those programs that sustain high species diversity, and do not support policies that could cause the premature extinction of another species. The Native Fish Policy of the Federation of Fly Fishers is based on this ethic of preventing fish species extinction.

The following nine behaviours comprise the Federation of Fly Fishers' Code of Angling Ethics:

- Angling ethics begin with understanding and obeying laws and regulations associated with the fishery. Fly anglers understand that their conduct relative to laws and regulations reflects on all anglers. Angling ethics begin with and transcend laws and regulations governing angling and the resources that sustain the sport.
- The opportunity to participate in the sport of fly fishing is a privilege and a responsibility. Fly anglers respect private property and always ask permission before entering or fishing private property. They seek to understand and follow the local customs and practices associated with the fishery. They share the waters equally with others whether they are fishing or engaging in other outdoor activities.
- Fly fishers minimize their impact on the environment and fishery by adopting practices that do not degrade the quality of the banks, waters, and the overall watersheds upon which fisheries depend. These practices include avoiding the introduction of species not native to an ecosystem, and cleaning and drying fishing gear to prevent the inadvertent transport of invasive exotics that may threaten the integrity of an aquatic ecosystem. In simplest terms, fly anglers always leave the fishery better than when they found it.
- Fly anglers endeavour to conserve fisheries by understanding the importance of limiting their catch. "Catch and release" is an important component of sustaining premium fisheries that are being over-harvested. Fly anglers release fish properly and with minimal harm. They promote the use of barbless hooks and angling practices that are more challenging but which help to sustain healthy fish populations.
- Fly anglers do not judge the methods of fellow anglers. Fly fishers share their knowledge of skills and techniques. They help others to understand that fly-fishing contributes to sound fisheries conservation practices.
- Fly anglers treat fellow anglers as they would expect to be treated. They do not impose themselves on or otherwise interfere with other anglers. They wait a polite time, and then, if necessary, request permission to fish through. They may invite other anglers to fish through their positions. Fly fishers when entering an occupied run or area always move in behind other anglers, not in front of them whether in a boat or wading.
- Fly anglers, when sharing the water, allow fellow anglers ample room so as not to disturb anyone's fishing experience. They always fish in a manner that causes as little disturbance as practical to the water and fish. They take precautions to keep their shadow from falling across the water (walking a high bank).
- When fishing from watercraft fly anglers do not crowd other anglers or craft. They do not block entrances to bays or otherwise impede others. Fly anglers do not unnecessarily disturb the water by improperly lowering anchors or slapping the water with paddles or oars.
- Fly anglers always compliment other anglers and promote this *Code of Angling Ethics* to them whether they fish with a fly or not.

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Courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire

That Fish Has Possibilities!

Bob Kuehnbaum

I was recently reading an excerpt from a book¹ that, amongst a discussion of why flyfishing is important to the author, contained a sentence: "*Fish in the water represent pure potential.*" It's an easy statement with which to broadly agree, I suppose,

even though the writer didn't elucidate. Indeed, it may even have been written in a casual, offhand way, but it got me thinking of the many different kinds of "potential." Through the sharp eyes of an osprey, a mink or larger fish, a fish in the water could represent a potential meal for itself or its offspring, or; from the perspective of a stonefly nymph scuttling about its business on the river bottom, a potential predator. From an angler's point of view, a fish is a potential catch, potential cause for a moment of quiet satisfaction or elation, or a potential object of frustration.

To the technically-oriented, 'potential' can signify stored energy. If you remember your high-school physics discussion of carrying a brick up 20 flights of stairs to a rooftop, you'll know the difference between potential energy (the brick 20 floors up) and kinetic energy (the brick falling down 20 floors). Similarly, a charge built up in a battery is nothing more than potential until conductors are connected to the terminals and electrons allowed to flow. That concept of potential has meaning when a fish holding tight against a log in slack water suddenly releases, seemingly as quickly as lightning, some of its stored energy to attack your dry fly as it drifts in the fast current nearby. That fish, if substantial, can cause the same kind of electric jolt as touching battery terminals with wet fingers. And not hooking or losing it can feel like being hit with our falling brick. It might even cause you to release some of your own stored-up energy in the form of a few loud expletives.

But there's much more to the concept than an allusion to elementary physics. Potential also means the *promise of something being there*. That's why we fish familiar pools, or go where others (on rare occasions) have told us that they'd hit paydirt. That's why we'll fish well into darkness, hoping for a secretive, big brown in a deep pool to become careless. That's why, when we test unfamiliar and unstoried waters on a crapshoot, we don't spend long if we don't soon connect. And that's why we thoroughly avoid waters which are unlikely to be populated by the kind of fish we're seeking. We must be reasonably sure of *some kind of potential*.

Anglers who prospect with a dry or wet fly are sometimes berated by others who will only cast to rising fish. In my opinion, however, the derision is largely unjustified. Not only is prospecting hard work and not for the lazy or unfit angler, but the fish in some rivers – particularly one which I know well – are noted for their tendency to feed under the surface, even during significant hatching activity. One could grow moss and eventually become part of the landscape while waiting for visible rises

before casting, but fish can sometimes be brought to the top with the appropriate inducement.

More to the point, let's consider the concept of potential. With a fish rising into view during a hatch, some of the potential connected with that fish has already been converted into action, or fact, and therefore lost to the angler. There's no longer the matter of finding the fish - just fooling it (which can be, admittedly, no mean feat in itself). Prospecting for fish, on the other hand, can be a great deal of fun and actually, I think, very much more electric. Assuming that water conditions do not allow us to spot fish that we know are somewhere in the vicinity, and that there is not an intense hatch to which fish are rising, there is confirmation of neither their presence in a particular spot nor their interest in feeding. So, those fish are simply obscure and mysterious parts of the water which they inhabit; to the angler, they represent *nothing but potential*. In general, then, the less you know about a fish, the more potential it has. How often have you been taken completely by surprise by a fish when you were thoroughly unprepared – and promptly lost it? I'll wager that you quite enjoyed those moments, perhaps more so than nipping, with a #26 fly, the lip of some ultra-fussy surface feeder which has seen and felt the countless offerings of innumerable anglers drifting repeatedly over it all season long.

¹ "A Meditation on the Midlife Crisis and the Literature, Psychology and Mystique of Fly Fishing," from *Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis*. Copyright © 1993 by Howell Raines. William Morrow & Co., Inc.

The Forgotten 'Coaster' Brook Trout Fishery

Klaas Oswald, Sault Fly Anglers

In the latter half of the 1800's, 'coaster' brook trout were so large and abundant in the St. Marys River, Lake Superior and the Nipigon River that the Lake Superior region became the destination of choice for many sportsmen. The industrial revolution made possible speedy travel to those locations on trains and lake steamers. It also created the wealth necessary for the increase in leisure time that, for the first time in North America, made fishing vacations possible.

One of the first to record the Lake Superior fishery was Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, a prominent New York lawyer. In July, 1865, he and a friend steamed to Sault Ste. Marie and, after fishing in the Rapids, hired a pair of guides with a sailing and rowing boat and headed north, fishing along the shore from Gros Cap to the Agawa River. In one

afternoon at the falls on the Chippewa River, they took over two dozen trout of one to two (occasionally three) pounds "which were the selection from nearly a hundred." They moved on to the Batchawana River, which he reported "fished to excess." Nonetheless, they managed in one day to take at least two dozen trout, averaging over three pounds, from a pool at the mouth of a tributary trickle where he "beheld the bottom literally black with fish." He added, "We could doubtless have killed a hundred."

They met a party sailing back from Nipigon who reported that the trout there "were so numerous as to ruin the sport." Camping at the mouth of the Agawa, he saw "ten thousand (trout) in the space of five hundred yards," apparently gathering to ascend the river, but was unable to catch any. On the return trip, at (what is now called) Jackson Island at Gros Cap, they took many large coasters fly casting from the rocky shores during a *Hexagenia* hatch.

About the north shore, Roosevelt wrote, "From the sandy beach at Point aux Pins to the outlet of the Pigeon River – at every point, in every cove, trout are to be taken, and often in abundance; but probably the best as well as the most accessible spots are Gros Cap and Mamainse. Of the rivers the most famous is the Nipigon where barrels of trout averaging four pounds, have been taken in one day; but the Batchawana and the Agawa are nearly as good." He also described the coaster fishery along the south shore of Lake Superior, where fish were often caught in the hundreds of pounds.

In 1883, Charles Frederick Orvis and Nelson Cheney compiled two dozen articles into a book named *Fishing with the Fly*. One of the articles, "A Trouting Trip to St. Ignace Island," was written by W. Thomson of Barrie. In late August, after reaching Lake Superior by steamer, Thomson's party camped on St. Ignace Island on the east side of the Nipigon Straits. In a few hours on his first morning of fishing, Thomson reported taking 15 trout, each weighing between 2 and 3 pounds, on flies. He was joined by his friends; by sunset, they "had taken in all seventy-six fine trout, none under one pound" from one near-shore reef. At the end of their fifteen-day trip, they "packed in ice more than three hundred pounds weight to take home with [them]; and gave away nearly as many more to the captain of the steamer."

In the same book, Henry Vail of Cincinnati wrote of "Fly Fishing the Nipigon." His party fished around mid-July on the river, and took as much as "sixty-four pounds one afternoon." In the first rapids, the fish averaged a pound each. At Alexandra Falls, fifteen miles up river from the mouth, the fish were larger and averaged nearly two pounds each. At Virgin Falls in the upper river, the party caught so

many fish of about three pounds in size that they self-imposed a size limit of five pounds, and kept "thirteen trout that aggregated fifty-five and a half pounds." Vail wrote, "It is fortunately against the law to use a spoon, or to kill fish that cannot be used. It is not a safe place for pot-fishermen to go."



In 1892, Mary Orvis Marbury, C.F. Orvis' daughter, wrote the book *Favorite Flies and Their Histories*, much of which was based on customers' correspondence. Excerpts from letters provide another snapshot view of coaster fishing along Lake Superior, just after the Canadian Pacific Railway had been built along the north shore. George Wetmore of Schreiber, Resident Engineer between Port Arthur and White River, wrote that he fished "more or less almost every day; consequently during the season [killed] a large number of fish" mostly at the Nipigon and Steel Rivers and along the shore of Lake Superior, with "six to eight being an average catch for an afternoon and evening ... from 1½ to 5 pounds." Some of his best fishing was done from shore.

The previous year, Frank Simpson of Winnipeg arrived at the Sault, where he had grown up, and recalled that he had in his "younger days taken many a basket of trout from the beautiful rapids there." Although told that "the waters were fished to death" and catches poor, he and his brother went fishing at the crowded rapids where "the shore seemed to be lined with fishermen." But by using small, imitative flies instead of the usual large and fancy ones, they killed 79 trout, the largest being about one pound.

Charles Hunter of Toronto wrote that he had fished a number of large and smaller rivers, and refuted complaints that the Nipigon was overrated. He believed the fish were as plentiful and as large as in previous years, but that they were "certainly better educated, consequently more wary." He conceded that it was "the ambition of all North American trout fishers, good, bad, or indifferent, to

get to the Nipigon." In August of the previous year he had counted nearly one hundred anglers on the Nipigon.

A half-century ago, Ray Bergman, the premier fishing author and outdoors magazine editor, fished all over North America. In his 1938 book *Trout* (revised in 1952), most of the fly patterns and many of the chapters are devoted to brook trout. Significantly, there is no mention of Lake Superior coaster brook trout or the Nipigon River. He devoted a chapter to fishing by canoe in the St. Marys Rapids, but only in the context of streamer fishing for big rainbow trout. Evidently, brook trout had mostly disappeared through overexploitation; competition from introduced rainbow trout may have also taken its toll. Bergman's expeditions for big brook trout were to northern Quebec where anglers had learned to release almost all but injured fish.

In 1958, Joe Brooks wrote briefly in *The Complete Book of Fly Fishing* of the coaster fishing at St. Ignace Island, using dry flies cast to shoreline rock structure from a boat kept some 60 feet from the shore. It seems that by then, coaster fishing was about where it is today, restricted to the rocky shores and reefs around the Nipigon Straits, and in the river itself, mostly just before or during the fall run.

It appears that this fishery's world-famous status lasted only for the fifty years from about 1850 to the beginning of the last century. Doomed by increased access, only a small remnant still clings on in remote portions of Lake Superior.

(Despite the decline in the fishery shortly after 1900, a 31½ inch, 14 lb – 8 oz (6.58 kg) brook trout was caught in the Nipigon River in 1916 - a world record which still stands after 87 years. As recently as 1999, a 24½ inch, 10 lb – 1 oz (4.57 kg) brute was caught, surprisingly, off the Wisconsin shore of Lake Michigan. – Ed.)

I Just Don't Understand That Elitist Label

Michael R. Fisher, FFF VP of Communications

Seven of us sat in front of the building that would crawl with kids eager to learn fly fishing the next day, but the discussion had gone past the kids and now focused on considering how people could consider fly fishers elitist.

"What the hell *does* elitist mean?"

"I think it's a golf ball, or is that Titleist?"

"I'll show them elitist," Joe said, as he pretended to light a lighter near his backside.

This was most of the hard-core of the MAC Council of FFF, the people who come to the events and get the work done - and have fun.

Joe was in a squared tailed, especially unstylish shirt with a bandana on his head that looked like it was left over from the depression. Don was in shorts and sandals and a T-shirt. Doug, Mike, Norm and Bob were all in shorts, two of them in ball caps, and I was in khaki pants and a shirt. The only sign of expensive equipment was my Orvis hat but I have the excuse that it is the only fishing hat I can find that is big enough. But maybe my head is so big because it is filled with elitist ideas.

The beverage of choice is a rather coarse beer from one of the oldest breweries in Pennsylvania, something akin to what Coors once was in Colorado, and Moose Drool is in the holy lands of Montana. The dinner was chili, corn bread and a taco salad, all fixed by the guys. The talk was also about the side effects we might expect from the food that night and whether this might keep the mosquitoes away.

There was no discussion of fine wines or of distant places we had fished in other countries; none of us had managed such fishing boondoggles. We talked of great fishing right there in the vast waters of Pennsylvania, which is second only to Alaska in miles of moving water.

The weekend was the result of hard work, especially by Joe, first to establish the kids' school and then get things ready to go. Tomorrow we would have maybe two dozen adults, and about the same number of kids. It would be a great ratio for teaching. Work, not leisure. Doesn't sound like elitism to me.

We also covered conservation issues, bringing back area streams, and saving ones that are still fairly healthy. We talked about the economic effects of fly fishing and how fly fishers contribute to local economies.

I have a hard time seeing the elitist label being placed on most of the fly fishers I know or have fished with. (An elitist, by the way, would have said, "With whom I have fished.")

Oh, there are some out there undoubtedly who could fit the label, those guys with all the latest gear who brag about all the wonderful fishing they have had in all the great and exotic waters they have fished. Most of those guys are all show and when you fish with them they always seem to catch fewer fish and enjoy their fishing less than the rest of us.

Are they the good ones? Show-offs and braggarts are found in all kinds of fishing. If they are the good ones, maybe that old adage should be changed to "one good apple can spoil the whole bunch."

Normal people looking in on a strange group of fishermen wearing rubber boots up to their chests, waving long sticks with feathers on the end of the line, could see us as a bit different, I guess, but I am not sure that is the same as elitist. Maybe they don't understand. Yes, I am sure that's part of it.

The fly fishers I know best work at their sport. They work at their skills to develop them, and they work to save streams that are dying. They work to help kids to learn to appreciate the sport and the environment. They donate a lot of time and some money, to help others and the world we live in.

Does that make them elitist? No. It means they care enough to do things and means they are unselfish enough to leave fish for others to catch. Again an old adage: "leave more firewood in the pile than you found in it."

Most of the fly fishers I know are givers, and givers are the type of people I like and respect most. Thieves and most politicians are takers. Poachers are takers.

The kids coming in the morning, eager to learn this sport, and the parents who care enough to bring them, are the kinds of people I want to know. Let's see now: laughter, hard work, caring, sharing, making the world a little better than we found it. Based on my upbringing, those are good things.

I just don't understand that elitist label.

FFF ClubWire Email Newswire service

From Logs to Fish Hooks?

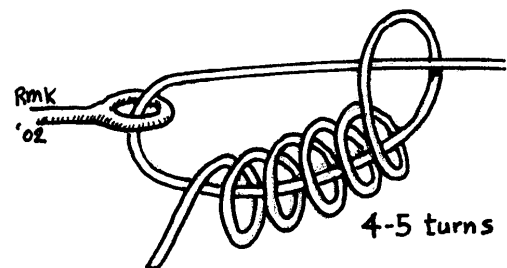
At the November tying meeting, Sheldon Seale, while demonstrating micro patterns, showed the "timber knot" which he says is appropriate to tiny flies since it creates very little bulk in front of the eye. A bulky knot (like the standard double clinch) makes no appreciable difference on a large fly, but can increase the length of a micro pattern by 20%, or more. There's always a trade-off, and in this case the weakness of the timber knot is, well, its weakness. But how much can that matter when you're using 7X or 8X tippet to begin with?

An important thing to remember when using this knot is, when it's being tightened, it should be

felt to snug up or set against the hook eye. If not, it could slip through.

Apparently, the knot was developed for dragging logs in the forestry industry, where a rope was wrapped around a log, then looped around itself against the log. The knot sets when pressure is applied, but it is easy to undo once the log has got to its destination, and pressure relaxed.

Here's how you do it (no explanation needed):



Nakina Fighters vs. McNally Magnums

Pat Kelly

Late last August, my better half and I spent a week at our son's cedar log cabin on Lower Twin Lake, about fifteen kilometers east of Nakina, a small logging town boasting Ontario's northernmost dry land airport. Nakina is way up there, about 150 kilometres northeast of Lake Superior's northernmost point. The countryside is rolling and, except for a few granite outcrops, is covered with a dense forest of spruce, poplar, and birch where it hasn't been clear-cut. It's supposed to be great moose country, but all I have seen are tracks. The loons put us to sleep at night and woke us up at dawn.

Lower Twin Lake is roughly three by ten kilometres in size and thirty meters deep in places. The water is clear and cold. The lake drains into the Drowning River, which joins the Kenogami, which then flows into the Albany, which in turn finally empties into James Bay. There are rumours of brook trout down the Drowning River somewhere, and last year I nearly smashed the oil pan of my car following logging roads in an attempt to find them.

The fish-finder on my son's boat showed plenty of fish about - if you believe in those things. Occasionally, I could see with my own eyes something break the surface, so maybe there is

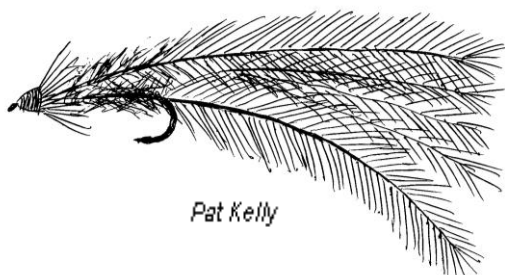
something to them. I tried spin casting, jigging, and trolling with minnows and Red-Devils and so on, but nothing was happening. The outfitter in Nakina said that this was poor year for fishing.

Since nobody was about and nothing else was working, I thought I should try my fly rod and the McNally Magnums I had tied. The McNally Magnum was recommended for pike and walleye by Tom McNally in his book *The Complete Book of Fly Fishing* (1993, Ragged Mountain Press, Camden, Maine).

Those monster flies cast comfortably with a 9-ft, 8 weight rod with a weight-forward sinking tip line. The 9-ft leader tapered down to 2X (6 lb) and the tippet was ten inches of 30 lb pike-proof mono. I could shoot them out about 50 ft. When I learn the double haul, I'll probably be able to get them out farther.

Slow retrieves, fast retrieves, jerking retrieves: nothing happened. Then, I admit, I tried trolling the fly – and that's when things began to get interesting. I caught pike after pike, 20 to 24 inches long, and a lone, sixteen-inch walleye. The pike were relatively small but – boy! - they sure fought. Many jumped right out of the water. The pike I have caught in warmer waters behaved like logs.

The best spot was a lightly weeded, shallow submerged reef in the middle of the lake surrounded by deep water. Since I had cast over the same areas, I don't know why trolling worked better. Was it because the fly was farther away from the boat? Were the fish perhaps attracted to the wake of the boat? Did the fly, as I suspect, simulate the long flight of an escaping minnow?



Pat Kelly

Here's the recipe for the Magnums that I had tied up:

Hook: Size 2 Mustad 79580 Viking style streamer

Body: Thick yellow chenille

Wing: Six bright yellow saddle hackles, about 13 cm long. The hackles can be flared any which way. In the water they clump together forming a long streamlined minnow-like body

Collar: Two soft red hackles, barbs about 2 cm long

Head: Built up heavily with black sewing thread.

FFF 2003 International Fly Fishing Show

FFF's annual show is to be held this year between August 4th and 9th in Idaho Falls, Idaho. A number of well known flyfishing personalities will be presenting programs and work-shops. Special events include a Women's Program, Youth Conclave, Bamboo Rod Symposium, and New Fly Fishing Products Symposium.

The Show Guide will be in the spring issue of FFF's *Flyfisher* magazine; IWFFC and a number of IWFFC members receive copies, so ask around. Or, check the FFF website www.fedflyfishers.org for on-line registration information.

Membership Openings at UCTC

The *Upper Credit Trout Club*, located on the banks of the Credit River northwest of the village of Caledon, expects to have some openings for new members this year. Members can fish throughout the year in stocked ponds for rainbow and speckled trout. Anyone interested in joining should contact Norm Huff at huffNM@aol.com or 905-272-7155 for additional information.

Sponsor a Forum Showcase Tyer

For the last several years, one of the most popular attractions at the Forum has been the *International Showcase of Fly Tyers*. This year, there will be more than 30 master tyers demonstrating their skills.

Now is your chance to sponsor one of the tyers. For \$150, you will help to defray some of the tyers' expenses incurred by your club, and in return you will receive a framed shadow box containing several of your tyer's flies.

Only one sponsor is allowed per tyer, so act quickly! Check the Forum brochure, make your choice and contact Ken Geddes at 416-757-2084.

Wanted: Forum Flies

This year we're inviting all IWFFC members to contribute a few flies to the Forum. They will be put together with other flies and made available at the Silent Auction / Pot Raffle. If you can spare a dozen (or two, or...) flies, please bring them into a

meeting and drop them off with any member of the Forum committee (who will then give them to El Presidente Bob Lundy for organization). If you would like to be recognized for your contribution, or would like to provide a description of your flies, please scribble words to that effect on a piece of paper with your donation.

We're also looking for empty fly boxes to contain the anticipated hordes of flies. If you have a spare that you can contribute, please bring it along.

2003 Conservation Workday Schedule

In its 4th and final year (in its present format), UCRRI is well-oiled, and the volunteer workday schedule for this coming spring and summer has already been set. Clearly, the plate is quite full. Mark the following days on your calendar; we hope to see you out on one or two of them.

- April 12** TUC. Sligo cleanup & fry survey
- May 10** TUC. Beechgrove Sideroad tree planting
- June 8** IWFFC. Highway 24 tree planting & log jam emplacement
- July 19** Joint. Instream work downstream from Grange Sideroad
- Aug. 16** IWFFC. Logjam installation, Forks of the Credit
- Sept. 16** IWFFC. Logjam installation, Forks of the Credit
- Oct. 25** Joint. Bioengineering downstream from Grange Sideroad
- Nov. 9** Joint. Spawning survey

Not to worry! Most of the UCRRI partners will be involved in other upper Credit rehabilitation, but our focus will shift from the reaches we have been working on for the last several years. Planning has been initiated for a yet-to-be-defined 2004 program.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

March 4. Fly tying: *Guest tyer:* Michael Jeavons will prepare some rabbit fur flies. *Intermediate tyer:* TBA

March 18. General meeting: *Speaker change,* tentatively Don Moore on wet fly techniques. Check the web-site for status.

April 1. Fly tying. *Guest tyer:* Ken Collins from Grand River Troutfitters, patterns TBA. *Intermediate tyer:* Sharon Cook will do some gar flies in preparation for the next meeting.

April 15. General meeting: Ken Geddes & Sharon Cook on flyfishing for gar.

Over-Dues

For the past couple of issues of the *Single Haul* (including this one), there has been a subtle reminder of your membership status. If the date beside your name on your address labels says "04/01/2002" then, according to our records, you've been living on borrowed time and your membership dues are almost a year in arrears! If mistaken, please help us correct and update our records by providing us with proof that you renewed in April, 2002.

Renewals are due at the time of the Forum. If you folks with expiry dates in 2002 can renew now, we ask that you do so for 2 years (one to catch up, one to renew for the upcoming year to April, 2004).

Contacting IWFFC

Website: <http://www.iwffc.ca>

IWFFC information line: (905) 276-6345

Mail: Unit 6, Suite 283
2400 Dundas Street West
Mississauga, Ontario
L5K 2R8 Canada



**61 Front Street East
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