



A Monthly Publication of the Central Ohio Fly Fishers

November 2006

In this months Newsletter:

- Presidents Report
- What has happened to COFF Code of Regulations
- Meeting Location and Activities
- A Day with Friends
- Casting for Recovery
- Fly Tying Help
- Membership and Dues
- Book Report
- 2006 Officers and Directors

President's Report

By President, Gerald Nelson

I have just returned from my yearly exodus to Northern California to fish its rivers and streams to be reminded that I needed to write a column for this issue of Tippet Talk, but first things first. Linda and I flew into Oakland, picked up our Suburban SUV (this was classed as a Chevy Blazer or similar) met my sister Sue and her boyfriend Mark in Danville and drove to Redding to float the Lower Sacramento on the next day. We met Dennis and Todd our drift boat captains from The Fly Shop at 8:00 and drove down to the Sacramento RV Park to put the boats in the water. This is the season of the salmon and steelhead runs but salmon cannot

be caught above the Red Bluff Diversion Dam and a steelhead tag needs to be appended to the license if you will be fishing below Deshcuttes Road. Dennis, a hard working guide and sometimes acerbic wit rigged us for the float. The most effective way to fish the Lower Sac is using a Boles float-Rite indicator tied on 20lb test monofilament three feet below the flyline. Attached to the other side of the indicator on about 6' of 4x tippet are two to three nymphs or egg patterns. The casting technique is a simple lob from right to left or vice versa using the water to load your rod and help keep the flies from tangling on the two triple a split shot that gets the flies down to the feeding lanes quick. We set out on our quest to catch 16"-20" lower sac rainbows and the possible steelhead. Linda was the first to hook and land a nice 16" rainbow and Dennis swore that she was going to out fish me even from the back of the boat. I landed the next fish and from thence we quit competing and concentrated on catching fish. When we would come to a fertile run Dennis would take us back up

river and float back through it and we would pick up a those fish we missed. While fishing over the salmon redds, in order to pick up the rainbows feasting on loose eggs, I set my hook on what I thought was a big bow but after stripping my line and bursting into the air we saw it was a salmon and had to break it off. Linda later landed a ½ pounder (which is a young steelhead) and I proceeded to lose a nice steelhead as it broke water right by the bow of the boat and threw my hook. All in all Linda, Sue, Mark and I had a very enjoyable fish full day on the Lower Sac. Sue and Mark drove back that night while Linda and I prepared for the coming weeks' activities of fishing the McCloud, Upper Sacramento and Lost Creek.

With the arrival of November we find ourselves with two meetings under our belts and the second Issue of Tippet Talk being released. Tippet Talk which is the newsletter of COFF will be issued on a quarterly basis and will be available as a PDF download from the web or if you do not have an internet connection we will mail a hardcopy to you. The

newsletter can be an important part of your experience in the club. It is a means whereby all the members can contribute by writing about their recent fishing trip, recent equipment purchases, short fiction, suggesting topics, or suggesting an article in the public domain of interest for publication. These can all be submitted via e-mail or if preferred typed on a piece of paper and submitted to our PO Box. The newsletter is the clubs voice to members and non-members alike. It can be a great source of inspiration (due to our perspiration) for introducing COFF to new and potential members. We hope you all enjoy this issue of Tippet Talk

What has happened to COFF?

Over the past two years COFF has been revived. The primary problem had been finding someone with the time and energy to take over the president's duties. In the past the structure and size of COFF made it difficult to conduct business because a majority vote of all the members was required to conduct certain business. Over the past two years both issues have been solved thanks to Jeff Fox stepping up to be President and Don Antrim revising the Code of Regulations of Central Ohio Fly Fishers Inc.

Code of Regulations of Central Ohio Fly Fishers, Inc.

The most important change made is that Directors are Board Members and the corporation

shall have no voting member other than the Board of Directors. The number of Directors will be no less than three and no more than twelve. A majority of the Board of Directors constitutes a quorum. Don Antrim generously donated his time to draft the new Code of Regulations.

Meeting Location/Activities

While the meeting locations have changed several times over the past two years we are attempting to provide a stable meeting location. To this end we have signed an agreement with Barley's Smokehouse at 1130 Dublin Road. This will be our permanent location until something more desirable comes along or we outgrow the facility. Our agreement states that we need to purchase a certain amount of food in order to obtain the facility at no cost. So if you can make it for the dinner/social hour beginning at 6:00pm that is good for the club.

A Day with Friends

By Jeff Fox, Past President

It was late spring in the Tomichi bottoms above Gunnison. As a result of four straight early mid-May days in the eighties all the free stone rivers were running high and muddy from the snowmelt that had started just yesterday. Of course we arrived today. The rivers we had come to fish, the Gunnison, East, and Arkansas were all blown-out. Now we had two choices fish the tail water Taylor River and or go up high above the snow melt to

the icy cold tiny headwater streams and beaver ponds of the Collegiate Range. I had promised several COFF members that I could lead them to spectacular scenery and wild trout fishing in some off the beaten areas of western Colorado. My timing was poor and I was now worried my new friends may soon disown me with nothing but chocolate milk rapids swirling around every bend as our rented four wheel drive paralleled the Gunnison on the drive up to our cabin in Almont.



(Mark with a Taylor River hog from the "Pigpen" stretch)

Mark McGee, Dwight Hurd, and Norm Speight had all accompanied me to the Taylor basin area between Gunnison and the funky ski town of Crested Butte for several days of western fishing. We managed to hook and land a few hogs from the technical waters just below the Taylor spillway but I could sense this group wanted more. So on day three we went exploring. The gravel road veered left away from the ghost town of Tincup and continued to climb slowly through the rail-fence pastures and weathered ranch buildings into the lodge pole basin at the foot of the pass. The high peaks of the Collegiate Range rose towards the east, the summit of Mt. Princeton

clearly in the distance and ahead lay



the sprawling meadows of the Taylor basin. We headed higher and followed the road that would keep us in sight of Texas Creek. We passed half melted snow fields and you could hear the wind sigh through the twisted pines as we all piled out of our 4-wheel drive. Our dirt road had suddenly become impassable. Now we hike. It was obvious that we would be the first to enter this area of wilderness this year and our pace quickened. We kept a sharp lookout for several unnamed tiny lakes that according to the map should be just off to our right. Instead we ran out of trail and there were no lakes. Straight ahead however, lay the prettiest stretch of interwoven brookie ponds I had ever seen. The ground quaked underfoot as we spread out among them. Cast

after cast brought a six to ten inch brookie to hand. Even "Pay Lake" Hurd was awash in the alpine glow of the Rockies.

Unfortunately, the sun began to creep low and we knew it was time to make the walk out. But not before we enjoyed a couple icy cold beers we had sunk in Texas Creek earlier that afternoon before heading off across the tundra to the brookie ponds.



"Beaver pond Brookie"

We were hungry that night and we stayed up late talking of trips past and trips to come. Two years ago I did not even know Mark let alone his love for hunting and his adeptness for tying and fishing effective midges. I was unaware Dwight knows everyone in Columbus and is in better trekking shape than myself even though I am a good thirty years younger. Norm lives the life outdoor bachelor life we all dream of our next go around. COFF brought us all together. I now have 8-10 regular fishing buddies I can call on and another dozen I would most certainly enjoy spend an entire day with. In just three short years COFF has returned to me more smiling memories than I could have ever imagined. People often ask me "what do you do at a fly fishing club"? That is when my mind wanders and soars like a hawk high above the Tomichi bottoms

and I softly say "make new friends".

CastingFor Recovery

By Mary Lee Hahn

While gigantic foundations raise millions of dollars to eradicate breast cancer, and pink ribbons become so ubiquitous that they no longer raise much awareness, there is a small non-profit based in Vermont and sponsored nationally by Orvis and The Hartford -- Casting For Recovery -- that works to improve the lives of breast cancer survivors 14 at a time. They teach them fly fishing.

"It's like whispering a prayer

In the fury of a storm"

They gather 14 survivors of all ages and stages in a beautiful natural setting, provide medical and psychological support to help smooth the turmoil of diagnosis, surgery, treatment, and reconstruction, and they teach them fly fishing.

"It's like trying to stop a fire

With the moisture from a kiss"

I attended Ohio's retreat last year as a breast cancer survivor. I was already a fly fisherwoman, so I already knew the healing power of standing in a river completely in the moment concentrating on current, rod, line, possible fish, breezes, and patches of sunlight on the water. I attended this year as a past participant and fishing instructor. This year, I got to

stand in the water beside a sister survivor and help her learn to focus on how much her cast was improving, not how much it was

lacking. We laughed when she hooked my hat, and when she caught a fish, we both screamed with excitement way out of proportion to the size of the fish.



"I hear them saying you'll never change things

And no matter what you do it's still the same thing

But it's not the world that I am changing

I do this so this world we know

Never changes me" (Garth Brooks)

I encourage each of you to volunteer to be a River Helper at next year's Ohio CFR retreat. Neither your work as a River Helper nor COFF's monetary donation to CFR will change the world, but we DO make a very real difference to a few breast cancer survivors who could be our mothers, sisters, friends, or colleagues at work

Fly Tying Help

by Michael Schmidt

So you've gone out and bought all the tools, materials, books, magazines, and other assorted goodies that the guys in the shop said you would need to tie your own flies...but what to do now? You could use just books to help you out and then compare your flies to those that you pick up as a reference, but what to do if something doesn't work out you have questions. Or perhaps you have been tying for years and want to branch out to other tying disciplines but don't know where to start. I may have a great solution for you...the Fly Tying forum located at

<http://www.flytyingforum.com>. The forum is full of tiers ranging from first timers to the absolute best in the world in each tying discipline. The site is a wonderful tool to use for posting flies to get honest critiques and helpful tips, or just to browse through old topics to see all the stuff you may have been missing or overlooking. Recently the owner of the site, Will Mullis, decided it was time to expand and start actually offering classes through the site...and so the FTF Virtual Classroom was born. It is just starting to get in to full swing but has been a wonderful tool for tiers of all ability levels.

Essentially you simply log in to the classroom; the teacher has a webcam so the students can follow step by step through a technique or pattern, and the students have microphones to allow them to ask questions (or they can simply type the questions in the classroom browser). The classes are free

and have been averaging 30-40 minutes and have covered things from a Woolly Bugger, to a winged wet fly, to the Foxee Bastard, to simple open tying sessions. I have found both the site and Virtual Classes to be a wonderful help in expanding my hobby, and have met quite a few people who I now consider to be friends (many of which I have met on the water). Hopefully you will consider checking out this wonderful community of fly tiers and get in to some of the upcoming classes

Membership and Dues

Membership will run from January to December with dues payable by November 30. You may be asking: What do I get for my money? We are currently looking into 1) reissuing the COFF patch to all dues paying members 2) obtaining discounts on fishing gear from local merchants 3) giving away a fly selection with each new membership.

In addition we are working on having a speaker or other event at each meeting. Also we are working on an outings committee who will be charged with coming up with some interesting local fishing outings for the general membership. Anyone willing to help on this committee please feel free to step forward – remember this is your club, and the more you participate the better it will be.

Book Report

By Jeff de Roche

“Catching Bluegill” by John Tertuliani.

Lotic Books

P.O.Box 543

Hilliard, Ohio 43026

Available at www.amazon.com

This is a comprehensive book on how, when, and where to catch bluegill, complete with recipes on how to cook them up. There is a lot of information here, packed into 244 pages with 2 chapters solely devoted to fly fishing. Even if you do not target bluegill when you fly fish the book is worth it for the basic skills information covering tackle, vegetation, lake stratification, lunar periods and much more.

There are also some pretty interesting fly patterns. I had never heard of a “Phostrich” before – a nifty little pattern combining pheasant tail and ostrich herl. Also included are material lists and picture for tying ants, San Juan worms, spiders, and dry flies, which are some of the most effective flies for any type of fishing.

You wouldn’t expect a book on bluegill to contain a section on fly fishing techniques but there is an excellent section on presentation covering habitat, stripping, matching the hatch and much more. No matter how good of an angler you are there is likely something useful you can pick up in this section.

The author is a lifetime angler with a BS in Fisheries Management and a MS in Biology so you can be assured you are getting some good information here. He has also

written other books including, “Thoughts on Fly-Fishing.”

Central Ohio Flyfishers

PO Box 218216

Columbus, OH 43221

2006 OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

- President: Gerald Nelson, kayesnelsonc@earthlink.net
 - Vice-president Mike Schmidt, mike@anglerschoicelifes.com
 - Secretary: Jeff Fox, foxville@netzero.net
 - Treasurer: Mark McGee, mmcgee101@yahoo.com
 - Education: Mike Schmidt Michael.Schmidt@qwest.com
 - Conservation: Tom Allen, ptallen111@insight.rr.com
 - Membership: Mary Lee Hahn, mlhahn@iwaynet.net
 - Newsletter: Jeff de Roche, jderoche@sbcglobal.net
 - Web: Ralph Haefner; rjhaefner@msn.com
 - Web Assist: Bill Karl, karl.2@osu.edu
 - Programs/Events: Norm Speight normsp8@hotmail.com
Programs/Events: Chris Reinke creinke@offinger.com
 - Legal Advisor: Donald Antrim; dantrim@bdlaw.com
- Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at announced location.