

Capital City Fly Fishers



10th Anniversary Newsletter

Piscator non solum piscatur



APRIL 2005

From the President...

Numb fingers, tired butt and a brain packed with so many memories that each is beginning to run into the other – this is the state of my current condition. Our club and its membership were offered the opportunity to tie flies during the Bass Pro Grand Opening on March 31st through April 4th. I decided to use some annual leave from my paid occupation and enter the world of the volunteer fly tying professional. I considered this a golden opportunity to meet fly fishing enthusiasts. This was combination of circumstances that would not ordinarily gather together so many from our surrounding region. This was a once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity to spread the word about our club and all of its efforts. There were plenty of fly fishers from Mid-Missouri at the event and their numbers would astound you.

All sorts of folks visited and stopped by the tying table located in the center of this new store. Drove of men, women and their children came and stopped to see what was happening. Most all of them were greeted pleasantly. And a great deal of them responded in kind. (And to be truthful, I did have times when I was so engrossed in my effort that I forgot to speak to a few of them.) Conversations sometimes were brief, while others more extensive. Most shared a story or tale of someone in their family having tied flies, or having caught a fish on an old fly pattern. The topic most often, of course, was on fly fishing or tying. Several shared fond memories of their father or grandfather tying flies. Quite a few young people had mentioned that they themselves had actually tied a fly or two. But the most asked question was “Do you have a fly tying show on public television?” I would proclaim that they had me confused with that other good looking fellow, Mark Van Patten, who, in fact, was an active member of our club.

The CCF “message” was spread to visitors and Bass Pro staff alike. I believe there was a sincere appreciation for the club effort made at Bass Pro. John Wenzlick helped on Saturday along with his lovely wife. They spent time as my relief and companions. During each of the three days, I used the opportunity to speak with at least a couple hundred or more locals about a variety of patterns and techniques. In particular, when given an indication of an interest in our club, I would disclose what it is we do, how we do it, and to whom we put forth our collective efforts. Brochures and business cards were handed out. Approximately 250 flies were distributed attached to the new business cards. The fly patterns included grizzly hackle wooly bugger, crackleback bi-visible dry fly, and bead head pheasant tail nymph. I asked each one receiving the fly and information to visit our Web site and seek out what it is we do. I asked them to check up on us and give us an opportunity to work with them as they enjoy the life sport of fly fishing. I encouraged individuals as well as families to participate in our club. A great many expressed the desire for more training in fly tying, casting and fishing. So we may have other opportunities in the near future to expand our influence in the region. I know that several are seriously considering joining our club. So if you see new faces at our next meeting step up to them and give them hearty welcome. I am sure that each is looking for the fellowship and camaraderie that a friend can offer. They just don’t know it yet.

One special, memorable event that returns from the overcrowded, packed recesses of my brain is the delight and glee seen on a small Cub Scout’s face when I handed him a fly pattern we tied together. As I handed it to him, I said, “Here Sir is your very own hand crafted fly that you helped create!” Although together we tied the fly step-by-step, I gave him more credit for his efforts. I congratulated him on

tying his very first fly. The radiant smile that overtook his face made the 33 hours well worthwhile. An older couple was standing near watching us. I noticed the older gentleman wipe a tear from his eye as he saw this young man at the moment he found his great pride.

At another point, two young siblings were each working with me making a grizzly hackled wooly bugger. I tried to make the experience one of light-hearted fun. Upon departing with a de-barbed fly embedded in a club business card for each of them. They compared their prizes and noticed that one was tied with a gold bead and the other with a silver bead. They turned around and asked what made the difference. I remarked that one was a female and the other a male. They certainly wanted to know how to tell which one was which. I said that they would have to ask their parents about that, but that they could readily identify the one with the gold as being female. A puzzled look came over them both. Then I added, "It is quite simple. Most females want to wear gold things and rings." That certainly seemed to satisfy their curious minds and even tickled their mother a bit.

I have discovered a technique working with younger children that prevents them from being too frustrated with the skills required for tying and their personal capabilities. I found that I can handle the difficult parts of tying with them if I give them a task while I am starting the thread on a hook, or securing material, or even whip finishing a fly. Remembering to keep them involved with the process, explaining how and why something is being done and then doing it together is the secret. Too many times in the past I struggled with attempting to instruct them in a technique they were not quite able to handle. In the end, having to perform the task myself and then move on to the next step. I decided to involve them more deliberately in the tying. Some children will have difficulty using a bobbin to wrap thread around the hook and material by themselves. Some have difficulty wrapping a hackle by themselves. So I ask them to hand me the material over the top, then I give it to them under the bottom as together we take turns wrapping it around the hook. Working as a team, we complete the task. When you make it a

cooperative effort, dosed with encouragement and fun, the task is handled without frustration.

Ryan Mayberry dropped by the tying table while I was at Bass Pro Grand Opening. Mr. Mayberry works with Charlie Reading at Reading's Fly Shop in Lebanon near Bennett Spring State Park. He told me that recently Charlie Reading took off for the Bahamas to fly fish the saltwater flats. So he and some other individuals took the opportunity to clean and rearrange the fly shop. If any of you have ever dropped by the fly shop, you know that Charlie has lots and lots of materials, books, rods, tools and other things everywhere. I am not saying that it is disorganized but it has been a work in progress for some period of time during his construction phase. Out front there is a casting pool that has been in various stages of being built. For the most part it is getting a final dressing up. And there is a reason for this. Charlie Reading is going to celebrate his 20th Anniversary this Memorial Day weekend. And along with the celebration, he is planning a fly fishing exposition to include guest fly tiers, casting clinics, demonstrations, door prizes, manufacturing representatives and a sale tent. The dates will be May 28 and 29. More information will be available in the near future.

Consider what you would like to do in the near future with the club. It is time to share with Ed Farnsworth your ideas for speakers, activities and events. A few of us went to Saline Valley Wildlife Area for a Macro-invertebrate Visual Survey on March 19th. The Big Saline Creek is found to be in a fair state according to the invertebrates discovered there during our survey. I was able to obtain a series of good photographs of a sculpin, several mayflies, stone flies and midges at various stages. We picked up several bags of alcoholic beverage containers strewn carelessly around the parking lot, road and low-water crossing. The activity report was filed the following week with MO Stream Team via their online forms.

At this month's meeting, we have Mr. Brian Wise from River of Life Farm who will speak about the North Fork of the White River. Remember that the meeting location has changed and will be at the Runge Nature Center, off Highway 179 in West Jefferson City. The board meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.

Any member is welcome to watch and learn about the business end of our club. The regular meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. The Wildlife and Fish rooms will be our meeting location. Upon entering Runge Nature Center, turn left and travel down a hallway past the pit auditorium, reading room/library and restrooms. The meeting rooms are located on the right side of the hall. If the club desires to bring food and/or drinks to the meeting, there is an additional cost of \$100 for pre-paid deposit per meeting. The money is returned if the room is adequately clean. When I was there on state business meeting this week, I inquired about whether individuals could bring their own refreshments and what impact the "food/drink" rules would have. I was informed that it is permissible for individuals to bring in their own refreshment. If the club brings it in for everyone, then the deposit is required. Please help us keep this new meeting facility clean and help us be good stewards of what we are allowed to use.

Remember to not be afraid to let your line or your efforts go into the backing.

Larry Murphy, President

From the Banquet Committee...

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Banquet as much as I did. It was very successful do to a lot of good help from a lot of good folks. We had about 140 attendees. I believe that Dwayne told me that we took in about \$9100 and cleared about \$4900. We were able to send over \$500 down to Mokane for the kids thanks to equipment donated by Mark Van Patten.

The Committee wants to thank all who donated, collected donations, sold tickets and those of you who brought guests with money. We couldn't have had this success without a lot of help from the "Peanut Gallery"

Change of location for the monthly meeting..

The monthly meetings of the CCFF have been moved from ABB to the Runge Nature Center to make the location more central for most of the club members. We want to thank the folks at ABB for providing us a meeting place for the last three years.

From Mc Kay Park...

Most of the trout are gone from Mc Kay Lake from last year. The Parks and Rec. Department got their ½% sales tax so I am sure they will have the funds to support the Winter Stocking Program on their own this year. Thanks for supporting them and this years Program.

Anyone who was involved in the survey should bring the information to the April meeting so that Harvey Morgan can tabulate the results and send them to the Parks and Recreation.

From Taneycomo...

Check out Phil Lilley's article on the Ozark Angler.com website concerning the drawdown of Taney for construction of the new Bass Pro facilities in down town Branson. Fishing might be very interesting with the lake levels that they are predicting. It may look like opening day at one of the parks down there. It sounds like they are planning to have the low water for at least 8 weeks.

Hooked on Fly Fishing...

Mark and Regina Van Patten are planning on having the Mokane kids up to the VP Ranch on May 14 for some fishing in the pond. Mark asked that anyone who would like to help, call him at 751-4115 or 295-4463 for details and direction to the VP Ranch.

Stream Team Training...

Introductory level training will be held:

Jefferson City April 29, 2005

Sedalia April 30, 2005

Fly Pattern of the Month...

Name: Bead head giant black stonefly nymph

Material

Hook: TMC 200R: 2-10

Thread: 6/0 Black

Head: Brass bead

Tail: Black goose biots

Rib: Black larva lace

Body: Black antron dubbing

Wingcase: Black swiss straw folded over thorax

Thorax: black antron dubbing

Legs: Dubbing, plucked from thorax

Tying Instructions

1. Crimp barb and place brass bead on hook
2. Place hook in vise
3. Wrap thread from front to the rear of the hook
4. Prepare thread ball to spread the tail at rear of hook
5. Tie in two biots in front of ball extending back about ½ the length of the hook shank beyond the curve of the hook
6. Tie in the larva lace
7. Dub the thread and wrap the body up 2/3 of the length of the hook
8. Rib the body with the larva lace, tie off and cut larva lace
9. Dub the first half of the thorax heavily
10. Fold swiss straw to form wingcase and tie in on top of thorax
11. Dub the front half of the thorax heavily
12. Fold front wingcase and tie in
13. Whip finish and cement

This fly is a very productive fly in April down on the North Fork of the White. They are very large down there. (1-1/4")

From Vice President Ed's Calendar...

April

- 3 Day with wildlife in Columbia
- 12 Club Mtg 7p.m. Runge Nature Center
- 23 DARE Day @ J C Gun Club
- 29 Introductory Water Quality Monitoring Workshop @ Jefferson City

May

- 10 Club Mtg 6p.m. Cole County Lake
no speaker, casting instruction
- 14 Hooked on Fly Fishing @ Van Patten Ranch

June

- 14 Club Mtg 7p.m. Runge Nature Center
Club Outing ? Date & Location Open

July

- 12 Club Mtg 7p.m. Runge Nature Center

August

- 9 Club Mtg 7p.m. Runge Nature Center

September

- 13 Club Mtg 7p.m. Runge Nature Center
Club Outing? Date & Location Open
- 30 Southern Council FFF Conclave

October

- 1-2 Southern Council FFF Conclave
- 11 Club Mtg 7p.m. Runge Nature Center

November

- 4,5&6 Club Outing, Mountain Home AR
- 8 Club Mtg 7p.m Runge Nature Center

December

- 6 Club Mtg 6:30p.m Runge Nature Center
Gift Exchange.

New Member Packets...

For the \$15 dues, new members in 2005 will receive a packet that contains a hat, decal and coupons worth at least \$15 at our favorite vendors. Remember this when you are recruiting new members.

CCFF Address and Web Site...

Address

Capital City Fly Fishers
P. O. Box 105151
Jefferson City, MO 65110-5151

Web Site

www.capitalcityflyfishers.org