



Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

March 2008

March 5 Dinner Meeting

The regularly scheduled dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 5 will be held at the Coach House Restaurant. Dr. Alex Kovanko, a trained wilderness first responder, will be discussing wilderness first aid.

April 2 Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, April 2 is the date of our next dinner meeting at the Coach House Restaurant. The evening's speaker will be Secretary of State Matt Dunlap.

Newsletter Distribution

John Weinmann has stepped forward to process and distribute the newsletter. Thank you, John.

Summer Camp Volunteer Coordinator

Alan Gray and Hank Metcalf have teamed together to coordinate the volunteers at summer camp.

Assistant Treasurer

Dan Hodgins has become the assistant treasurer.

Cabin Fever Reliever Update

The Cabin Fever Reliever is being held Saturday and Sunday February 23 and 24. Drop by and take in a lecture or two and see all the exhibitors. A list of exhibitors and a lecture schedule are on the website.

Rumors, etc.

The L.L. Bean fly fishing symposium is set for March 14 and 15.

Terry Haines has been ill for awhile, but is said to be getting better. Best wishes for improved health go out to Terry.

A note from the Secretary

John would like anyone with a changed or new e-mail account to send him the address at pbunyan@verizon.net. This reduces our newsletter costs and aids communication. Thank you for your help. This will allow a direct e-mail of the newsletter and an e-mail reminder of the meetings.

Reviews

The Essence of Fly Casting II is a video by Mel Krieger. The contents are aimed at intermediate or advanced skilled casters, though much of the material could be useful for a beginning caster. Coverage goes from the basic cast to the roll cast, double haul, Belgian cast and spey casting. Also shown is the key grip, body stances, and arm location for the various casting distances. He covers what stiff and soft casting rods mean to the fisherman as well as rod actions. This is a video I own and would replace if it were damaged. I believe that the club owns one of his productions, but I don't know which one.

John Goddard's Trout Fishing Techniques by none other than John Goddard covers a wide range of information on trout fishing learned over 40 years of avid fishing. The fishing locations ranged from New Zealand to England to Scotland to the U.S.

Fish eyesight was well covered with surprises for me. One surprise was that trout can see the top sides of a fly using their binocular vision.

Mr. Goddard covers all the normal aspects of a trout fishing book such as lies, rises, casts and the like in rivers and streams. But he mentions things I had not read before such as using pliers to offset midge hooks for catching more trout.

The fishing stillwaters chapter covers loch style (drifting) fishing with long rods, regular drifting on reservoirs with 8'6" or 9' rods and other interesting methods such as using water anchors while drifting in the lake to slow a drift that is moving too quickly. Remember, drifting is not allowed on fly fishing only waters in Maine.

There is a chapter on flies he or he and his friends developed, including the Goddard caddis.

I found the book dry, with a great amount of interesting and useful information. If you don't mind mostly dull but very informative reading, this book is available in the club library at Dr. Ed Bruno's office during his regular hours 8:30 to 4:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 8:30 to 12:00 Wednesday and Friday.

I am going to review three of the graphite rods I currently own, G Loomis produced rods.

I have fished a 2 piece 9 weight IM6 graphite fly rod from LL Bean for about twenty years. At the time, G Loomis made Bean's graphite rods. It has all metal guides. The rod is a moderate to fast action. I have fished bass hair bugs, trolled with large Carrie Stevens hook streamers and cast saltwater flies up to 6/0. It has performed well, explaining why later on more IM6 rods were purchased.

The nine foot length has been fine, but I would consider a longer rod for saltwater shore and dock fishing.

The 3 weight 8ft is a G Loomis GL3 graphite custom made by Don Corey at Annika Rod and Fly. It is all ceramic guides except for the tip. I would say it is a slow action rod, just what is needed for small flies on fine tippets. It casts my size 12 and smaller flies on a double taper line. It casts even better than the 8' four or the 7'6" five weight rods I own. The tip would also be ceramic were a replacement ever be needed. This is a great light weight small fly rod.

Finally, we come to the currently upper mid grade graphite 3 piece 7 weight from G Loomis. Don Corey at Annika Rod and Fly custom made this rod. I would say this is a fast action rod. Not only is it modern graphite, it has all ceramic guides, even the tip. I have used an old cheap six weight sinking line, a mid life low cost seven weight forward and a new on sale (otherwise pricey) seven weight forward line with this rod fishing size six 8x streamers to size 12 flies, often with size 16-24 droppers attached. This rod can cast that old, very inexpensive sinking line as well as it does the expensive floating line. It is a dream to cast as far as I am concerned.

My belief is that with good casting technique, almost all IM6 and modern graphite rods will be adequate or better for normal fishing needs. According to John Goddard a cast of about 35' keeps you out of any fish's view. The more casting you do, the more likely you will find the rod that suits you almost perfectly. For me I love a rod with all ceramic guides and the modern graphite in 9 foot length.

Don Corey has offered classes in rod building from time to time. If you are interested, see him for the next class date or e-mail to Don@annikarodandfly.com.

Special at March's Meeting

Before the meeting, Don Corey will be demonstrating how to set up a new line on your reel and revealing signs of when it is time to replace the old line. There may be mention of new line offerings available for 2008. What timely knowledge for the upcoming open water season!

Fly Tier of the Month, Dave Klausmeyer

Dave Klausmeyer, or substitute, will be tying a stonefly nymph pattern at the March supper meeting. Stoneflies are only found in running water. The nymphs are active year around.

Fly of the Month - Stonefly nymph

A K.'s Black Ugly Nymph

THREAD: Black monochord

HOOK: 2 to 6 4xl

TAIL: Black goose biots

ABDOMEN: "Lead" wire on each side of shank covered by thick fuzzy black wool yarn

RIB: Black swanundaze

THORAX: Dirty orange fur

LEGS: Black hen hackle

WING CASE: ½" wide strip of black goose quill if using size 4 hook

HEAD: Black monochord

Secure lead wire to bend of hook on each side of the shank. Use a small ball of yarn to separate the goose biots for the tail. Tie on swanundaze so flat side is up on fly when wrapped. Tie on wool and wind two or three turns into the abdomen. Wind rib. Tie on goose strip. Tie on hen hackle. Put orange fur in a dubbing loop, wrap to a hook eye length behind the eye. Pull the hackle forward, pull the goose strip forward, tie off and form head. At the beginning of the thorax, bend the hook slightly upwards. Coat the wing case with cement and finish the head. Tight lines.

Advanced Fly Tying

There will be advanced (beyond beginner) fly tying classes at the Bangor Parks and Recreation building on lower Main Street – where beginning tying is held, starting Thursday, March 6 at 6:00 pm. There is a \$5 per class fee for most materials needed to tie the flies. Plans are to tie bucktail streamers and tandem trolling flies March 6. Please bring head cement of some sort, white 3/0 or + thread as well as black 6/0 thread to class. Dry flies will be on March 13. Please bring 8/0 thread. March 20 promises saltwater patterns. Please bring 3/0 or + thread and head cement. More information is available at the meeting or by contacting Don Corey – Don@annikarodandfly.com.

PCCA Sportsman's Show

Bob Blatz has volunteered to be lead tier at the kid's fly tying table in the Memorial Gym during the Sportsman's Show which runs Friday, March 14 from 5:00 to 9:00; Saturday March 15, from 10:00am to 8:00 pm and Sunday, March 16 from 10:00 to 4:00. Bob needs help teaching the youngsters. See him at the meeting to sign up to help in this popular feature of the Sportsman's Show.

Additionally, Don Corey will be demonstrating fly fishing in the pool on Saturday at 2:00 and Sunday at 12:00. See Don and ask if you can lend a hand to this fine demonstration.

Fly Swap 2008

Please bring your finished nymphs and tying instructions to the March dinner meeting – or deliver the flies and instructions to John by March 10. They will be sorted and available for your fishing pleasure at the April dinner meeting.