



Founded 1994 by Armand Courchaine
<http://www.crossroadsanglers.com>

January 2008
Meeting Date: January 22nd, 2008, at 6:30 PM

From the President

As I sit down to write this, I realize that we are in the middle of a January thaw, and open water is starting to show on the ponds and streams of our area. I hope that you will have had a chance to wet a line, get out, and enjoy the warm weather; it may be several months before we see these temps again.

Howie Debeck and Joel Kessler both spent time in the hospital and are at home recuperating—we wish them well. I am sure that they would appreciate a card or a call.

I hope that you'll have had a chance to go to the fly fishing show in Marlboro this month. The Bear's Den will be having their show at the Holiday Inn in Taunton on February 10th from 11 to 7. I'm looking for several volunteers who would be willing to tie at the club table for several hours. If you have some free time that weekend, let me know.

There are still quite a few people who haven't paid their 2008 dues—please try to remember to pay your dues this month. Also, we will have a donation can at the January meeting for a free-will donation to help defray the cost of painting and repairing the South Foxboro Center building. They have been very kind to us over the years.

Bring a half-dozen flies to the March meeting. We will be having a fly swap, which should be a great way to learn how to tie several new patterns. Salt or fresh water, it won't matter—who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

To thoughts of spring and open water,
David Ferretti

Meeting Agenda

January 22nd

Doors open 6:30 PM

Fly Tying. Norris Johns will tie some flies that worked in Alaska.

Rob Lurie will have a table for beginners and advice on line winding.

7: 30 Announcements

Raffle

Norris Johns will give a presentation on Fly Fishing in Bristol Bay, Alaska

2008 Dues

Please pay your 2008 dues to Ben White. They may also be sent to him, along with your mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address, at 155 Debora Road, North Attleboro, 02760.



“I knew I should have brought my fly rod.”

Tips and Tricks

Rob Lurie

I picked up one of my spinning reels the other day and realized the line on it was more than a few years old. Having access to miles of line, and looking outside at the remaining bit of snow, it hit me that this would be a great time to clean and lube my reels and change the line. I also thought about the backing on my fly reels. I haven't seen some of the backing since it was put on.

Using an old reel seat and a bit of engineering, I fabricated a line winder. It only took a few minutes to work the bugs out and the first reel was unspooled. Before you unspool your fly line, note how much backing is currently on the reel. Too little? Too much? The holes in the reel make a good gauge.

Tie an arbor knot to start. Wind the backing on tightly and evenly. A nail or Albright knot is the norm for backing to fly line connection. There is a neat and reasonably priced tool to make nail knots. A short piece of mono nail-knotted to the

business end of the fly line and a perfection loop on the end of the mono makes a great loop-to-loop connection for your leader.

If anybody has any questions about designing or building a line winder, see me at a meeting. Maybe I can bring mine in and we can have a short demo.

Fly Tying

Armand Courchaine

It was the spring of 1953, and, while walking down a street in Fall River, I was attracted to a store with hunting and fishing equipment in the window. The owner, Edward Cornell, came out and asked if I had a paper route. I said, no. Are you making money? Again I said, no. How would you like to make money? Doing what, I asked? Tying flies, he said. How do you do that, I asked, hold them by the wings?

Long story made short: He told me that if I bought the tying vise, he would supply the materials and hooks. And he'd pay me. I was nine years old. The flies were all on a #4 streamer hook, traditional patterns, but the wings were all tied flat. He told me they would be used for trolling in Maine and Quebec. All the fly tying materials were on one turnstyle, and all packages said Universal Vise.

Here we are in the year 2008. I work as an electrician (for myself) all over Massachusetts. If I am in your town, and you have a fly shop, I will be stopping in. I have visited seven fly shops in two months. I've tied at the new Bass Pro Shop in Foxboro, MA. (What is disturbing is that I tied there to promote United Fly Tyers.)

All the small shop owners are concerned that Bass Pro Shop is going to affect their business. Having seen both sides, I can understand both of their points. The seasoned fly tyer and fisherman is still going to do business with his local shop. But the new comer, will be swayed to take a trip to the Disney World of Fishing: the Bass Pro Shop. Interesting note--while no

one seems concerned about LL Bean stores in Woburn and Mansfield, MA, some shops worry about Cabela's in Hartford, CT. And I was told by a regional publication that they are turning away from fly fishing because of a regional trend of decreasing interest in our sport.

All the small shops are worried because they rely on our business to stay open. I think of my early days of fly tying and fly fishing and thank all the small fly fishing shops for all the services they offer. Please remember your local shop when you are buying tying materials, fly fishing tackle etc.

I want to thank the Bear's Den, the Lower Forty, Concord Outfitters, Natick Outdoor Sports, the Blue Northern, and the Evening Sun Fly Shop.

An old fly tyer and friend,
Armand

Bear's Den Show

February 10th, (Sunday) 11-7
Holiday Inn, 700 Myles Standish Blvd,
Taunton, MA (right off of Route 495).
Tyers needed. See Dave Feretti.

Board Meeting Minutes

The January 8th meeting was spent discussing plans for the rest of the year. Rich Murphy will be giving a presentation at our Anniversary Meeting in February. Tying in March will be in the form of a fly swap and teaching George Forte's Boy Scouts how to tie flies. Marla Blair will give a presentation in April—she will donate a guided trip for two as the raffle prize. And in May we will have casting practice and instruction, as well as a cookout.

George Forte read a letter of thanks from the South Foxboro Community Center, thanking us for our generous \$300:

“Our local landmark is in need of restoration from seventy six years of service to the community. Simply stated, our needs are immense but we have made significant strides in our restoration efforts thanks to generous donors like you.” Charles Woodward III, Treasurer and Fundraising Chair, South Foxboro Community Center

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