



# The Fly

A Charter Club of the



Federation of Fly Fishers

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## GRFT Newsletter

### President's Quill

- Wolf Schrey -

## November 2005

Why "My Flyshop"? I got a lot of inquiries from angling friends, club members and even strangers, wanting to know what flyrod or reel to buy, what is the "best" line, what tying materials to use etc. There are shops which sell all kinds of tackle. When you ask: "what are the trout biting on? "Walts Crawlers!" might be the answer. We as flyfishers are a group of specialists. We need a specialty shop to satisfy our needs. When we go to "our" flyshops, we can talk to somebody who actually fishes for Bluegills or Northerns. There will be somebody who knows what we need to outfit ourselves for Atlantic Salmon or who understands "chuck and duck". That salesperson will not send you to the duck-call department. We plan to go to Argentina in 2007. Who do you think we call for advice? Our friendly flyshop of course whose proprietor has been there and will go with us! Getting poor advice is worse than getting none at all. We must support "Our local Flyshop"! They need us for their existence and we want them to prosper so that we have a source of quality advice that will match our needs. When we support "Our local Flyshop" it is a win/win situation. In this world of globalization bigger is not always better. We are specialists and we need specialists. Long live "Our local Flyshop"!

Why "FFF"? A few months ago I wrote: Why FFF? Today I want to expand on this subject. Unfortunately most of the public is not aware of organizations such as the FFF, TU, various watershed councils, etc. which are working hard and diligently to make sure, that our streams and lakes become a cleaner and healthier environment for the benefit of all aquatic creatures, various insects and lastly humans. These organizations are made up of clubs. These clubs are home to people who care about the environment. They understand that hunting and fishing can only be enjoyed in a healthy environment. Many of these clubs work on river projects where members try to reverse bank erosion, mostly caused by man. They create spawning cover for the fry therefore giving the small fish a chance of survival. They conduct fish- and insect counts. Mind you, they are all volunteers and do this work at their own time and expense. Then there are those anglers, who do not belong to any club. They just fish reaping the fruits of other people's labor. These individuals believe that it is ok to fish, ruin banks, and deposit all kinds of debris along the pristine rivers and lakes. Many have never heard of the FFF for instance. When we encounter the "other anglers" we should take a little time and talk to them explaining the benefits of belonging to a club. We should let them know how gratifying it can be to see the improvements take hold and show results in more and bigger fish. Again, this is hard work. We have to become missionaries. We should make it our responsibility as club members to make the "other anglers" understand that belonging to a club, interested in improving the habitat, is in their own interest. It is also a great tool to spend quality time with their kids and wives. The cost belonging to a club is peanuts, compared to the benefits and satisfaction one can get out of membership. It is hard for most of us not to look at those "other anglers" as using the system without any kind of input and/or contribution. We just have to make believers out of them. Believe me, it is worth it. And remember: "When the last tree has fallen, when the last river has been poisoned, when the last fish has been caught and killed, we will realize that we cannot eat money." We at the GRFT could take the initiative and recruit one new member per current member by Christmas.

**Grand River Fly Tyers**

2141 Deer Hollow S. E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

## 2<sup>nd</sup> GRFT Tiers Open House Invitation by Dennis Potter

### "YIPPEE TIE ONE ON WITH DENNIS POTTER AND FRIENDS"

Ok all you pathological tiers, here is your second chance to attend the "GRFT TIERS OPEN HOUSE". Mark your calendars for January 29, 2006. On that date I will host a day long tying event at my home in the north end of Grand Rapids. Last year we had a ball. The fur and feathers were flying. We had about 20 tiers attend. Some stayed all day and some tied for a few hours. Regardless, all had a good time. There is no agenda, no set schedule, and no program: just a bunch of folks tying bugs, sharing info, and having fun. Don't worry about your tying skill level. That has nothing to do with it. This is an opportunity for "ANY" tier to spin some bugs and some tales. Yes, I found out last year that tiers tell as many whoppers as anglers. All you need to bring is your tying stuff and your tying lamp (recommended) and an extension cord if you have one. We will tie from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Come and join us. You may even learn something. I do have some space limitations, so reserve a seat soon. Contact Wolf Schrey for reservations: 616 246-5457

## Fly of the Month

### Stonefly Tied by Kirt Dibkey

(original by Bill Veurink of Thornapple Outfitters)



### Recipe:

1. Hook - TMC 7999, Size 8
2. Legs/Tail - Barred Crazy Legs, Olive/Green Flake
3. Wing Casing - Black electrical tape cut to shape and Black Sparkle Nymph Skin
4. Body - Black Electrical tape, overlapping wraps
5. Thorax - Peacock Ice Dub
6. Thread - Uni, Black 6/0



Kirt Dibkey with a Muskegon River salmon caught with the "Fly of the Month" Stonefly shown above.

### **A Manistee Outing** **- Wolf & Inge Schrey -**

Last year Bill and Nancy Sikkenga started a new tradition. In July or August, 3 nights and two days of fishing the big Manistee. Our hosts were Chuck and Linda Scribner. We stayed at their comfortable cabin. It was a wonderful trip and we agreed to do this every year. This time we were joined by Kris Nichols and Tina Straw, both dear friends of ours. We put in about 2 p.m. and the plan was to fish the river until about 10 p.m. We fished above Tippy Dam for trout. Most of them had lock-jaw that afternoon. However the beauty of the river sure made up for the slow action. In "camp" we had a very late snack and a night cup. Next afternoon we fished below the famous dam. Chuck directed his boat downriver. We passed all the spots from last year where we witnessed in disgust and anger the many violators snagging Salmon and defacing the landscape with their garbage. But that is another story. Inge broke the ice with a very nice 18" Brown which was quickly released to fight another day. The heat became almost unbearable. We measured 74 degrees water temperature. In the boat the thermometer registered 112 degrees. We just had to go for a dip! Chuck parked the boat where a small but cold feeder creek came into the river. A pod of 20 - 25 fresh Steelhead were sticking their noses into the cold water. Naturally we had to try for them. Eventually one big Chromer took Wolfs offering and headed downriver with a vengeance. The Steelie jumped twice. This is where Wolf screwed up. Chuck had told us:"Let them run!". Well, we do most of our "big fish" hunting on the PM and there you have to "put the stick" to the big boys or they seek refuge in the nearest logjam, maybe only 60 feet away. So, Wolf palmed the reel. That is all the Chromer needed to say goodbye, a beautiful Steelhead, probably 12 - 13 pounds. Shortly after getting over his shock and acquiring his composure - his ego was really bruised - Wolf hooked and landed a big Brown of 21" after a short but spirited battle. Now, it was Inges turn. She connected with a real bruiser. Unfortunately he never showed himself but took off downriver at breathtaking speed. In no time at all, Inge was over 100 yard into the backing. There was no way for Chuck to lift anchor and follow before the "Big One" broke off. Well, that was exciting. We had pounded those Steelies for almost 5 hours and decided to move upstream for some dryfly action. Trout began to rise in increasing numbers all around us. We even caught a few. At the end we could no longer see our flies and tying on a new one was out of the question. We called it a day - a wonderful day. Bill and Nancy had to go home directly from the river. Tina and Kris needed to head home as well. Bill, Nancy and the girls had 2 days of great fishing too. Of course the fish all grew in size after we exchanged our experiences. As we bid them good bye we all said that we need to do this again next year. Life is good.

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## Upcoming 2005/2006 Event Calendar

### 2005

1. **Nov. 5:** Annual GRFT banquet and fund-raiser. We hope to see you and your significant others and friends at this important event. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Kirt Dibkey, Banquet Chairman  
[cbrf396@hotmail.com](mailto:cbrf396@hotmail.com).
2. **Dec. 3:** 6th annual Fly-Tying Expo, Mason, Michigan. We will be there with 5 tyers.

### 2006

1. **Jan. 14th:** We will be tying at the North Coast Fly Fishers (NCCFF) 4th Annual Northern Ohio Fly Tying Expo™ to be held in the Cleveland, Ohio area. We will be there with 2 tyers.
2. **Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>:** Dennis Potter's "GRFT Tiers Open House" - see page 2 of this newsletter for details.
3. **Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18th:** Midwest Flyfishing Expo held at MUCC in Warren, Michigan. One of the biggest and best fly shows in the country.
4. **Mar. 16 - 19:** We will be tying at the Grand Rapids/Devos Place Sportfishing and RV Show. Held at the new Devos Place in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. We will tie during the entire show in co-operation with Great Lakes fly Fishing Co.
5. **June 16 - 18:** GLC Conclave in Roscommon. A great way to introduce kids to the art of fly fishing, classes for beginners and advanced flyfishers and tyers.
6. **Sept. 18 - 22:** Salmon outing on the PM. We are taking a group of anglers from Illinois to hunt for big Kings.
7. **Oct. 20 - 22:** Wellston - the GLC/FFF Steelhead outing is back.

### **Board Members:**

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### **New GRFT Members**

Our two newest members:

- 1) **Gary Balcer** and 2) **Jim Reed**

Please give them both a warm welcome!