



Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

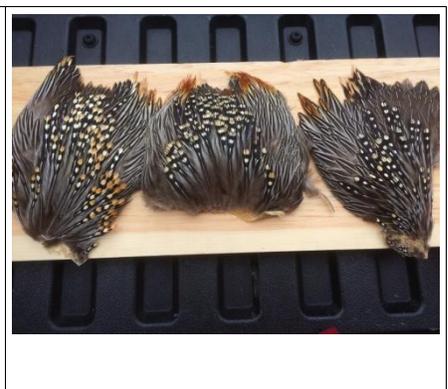
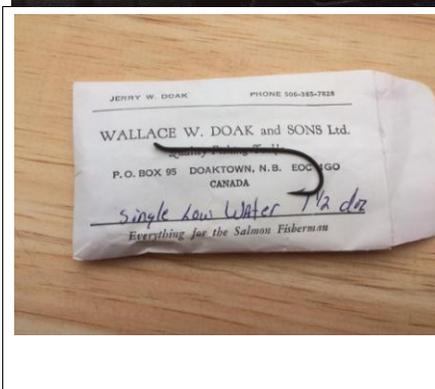
JUNE 2017

Monthly Meeting June 7, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Special Event: Auction of Fly-tying Materials

At the June 7th meeting we will be having an auction!! The estate of Ralph Keef donated all of his Fly Tying materials including 2 lots of partially used jungle cock capes, many capes and saddles both streamer and dry fly, lots of hooks (including Atlantic salmon), plus lots more related materials. Ralph served as president of the Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation for several years and received the Lee Wulff award from ASF in Nov. of 2014. He was involved with the Penobscot River Restoration Project, supported local salmon clubs and was especially impressed by the work of the Downeast Salmon Federation headquartered in Columbia Falls. Also included in the auction are finished flies and other donated items. Preview will begin at 5:00

The June meeting will be Wednesday June 7 at the PCCA clubhouse in Brewer. Social hour begins after 5:00pm, followed by an optional full course meal at 6:00 and a short business meeting. As always, the June meeting will be our last until September. Please plan to attend this always fun and informative meeting of YOUR club!



From the President's Fly Box

This has certainly been a protracted spring with temps in the 50s into June! On the plus side, the cool, cloudy weather has extended the trolling season with salmon being landed into Memorial Day. The recent arrival of black flies, mosquitoes, and bass, however, does herald that summer is finally here. We have had a great start to this year's outing events. The weather has cooperated, fish have been landed, and a good time has been had by all! This summer we will be returning to some favorite spots enjoyed by the group and will also be exploring new spots. The outings are a great opportunity to expand your fishing horizons, share the camaraderie, and learn/share fishing tips. I encourage you to make it to as many events as possible.

SAVE THE DATE!

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of the Penobscot Fly Fishers. To commemorate this special event, a 20th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Hank Metcalf, has been busy planning a banquet that will be held on September 6th. *Banquet details are in this newsletter.* Because our membership meetings end in June, check your email during the summer for additional announcements about the event. As part of the anniversary celebration, the PFF Board has commissioned Don Corey of Annika Rod and Fly to build a commemorative PFF 20th Anniversary fly rod, which will be raffled off later in the fall (not at the banquet).

This is the last newsletter until September. Have a safe summer! The Board and I look forward to seeing you on the water.

ED

PCCA Family Fun Day

Even with an overcast, drizzly morning, PCCA's Family Fun Day turned out to be a great event, especially as the clouds cleared and the sun came out. Many thanks to the PFF members who turned out to help with the kids fly casting and fly tying activities.





Report from Hank Metcalf, Chairman 20th Anniversary Committee

Two decades ago a small group of dedicated fly fishers decided to form a new organization, the Penobscot Fly Fishers. To celebrate our club's 20th Anniversary, an organizing committee has planned a special banquet at Bangor's Spectacular Events Center on the evening of September 6.

We have much to cheer and be cheerful for! We recognize a nearly six-fold increase in membership since our origin in 1997. We have followed our education mission by teaching fly tying to more than a thousand youth and adults. Our monthly meetings have been insightful as well as an opportunity to socialize. Our spring, summer and fall events now offer eighteen choices to fly fish at mostly nearby streams and lakes. The financial status of the club is very sound. In addition, we celebrate the extraordinary leadership and volunteerism that has sustained our outstanding success.

At our banquet we will be served plated dinners that attendees will pre-select from an entrée list of chicken, pork loin, haddock, or vegetarian. Special dietary needs can also be accommodated. The dinner will begin with a tossed garden salad and finish with a special anniversary cake. Tickets are limited to one per member and one per guest (spouse, significant other). The subsidized cost is \$10 per person, with the remaining 60% covered by the PFF. The social hour will begin at 6 PM with snacks at each table. A cash bar will be available. This summer members will be sent, via e-mail, a meal selection form, which must be returned, with check for \$10 per person by August 15.

We look forward to a wonderful evening of celebration and tall tales.

Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor

The club is really seeking a new editor for the monthly newsletter. Really, we are serious this time. The current editor will be stepping down over the summer and would still like to identify a replacement soon so we might have a smooth transition. Like, really soon.

The job entails receiving inputs from various club members and then pasting them into a set format. A Microsoft Word compatible computer and the ability to copy, cut, and paste items are all that is needed. Creativity is a plus. The rough copy is then forwarded to the president for publication. Time requirement is about 2-hours per month. A great way to give back to YOUR club...

If you are interested in taking on this valuable service for the club, please see me or any club officer at a future meeting. You may also email me directly at pr@penobscotflyfishers.com if you have any questions.

Paul Markson, Editor

The Library Review- June 2017 by Quill Gordon

*Fishing Bamboo: One Man's Love
Affair with Bamboo Fly Rods*
John Gierach
112 pgs



Greetings Penobscot Fly Fishers! I hear tell that this is our last newsletter and meeting until September. So this will be my last submission until September. Hopefully I'll be back then.

Before I begin, a quick answer to a question: at the last meeting somebody asked me if my first name was really "Quill", and if so was I named for the fly or was the fly named for me. Although my father is credited with tying the original Quill Gordon, a dry fly of some note on Catskill streams and beyond, the answer is none of the above. Rather, my true given first name is too shameful, ridiculous, and confusing. Let's just say it is worse than the famous Boy Named Sue. So early on I was called and began calling myself "Quill". Appropriate I thought, as it both honored the Gordon name and spared me the embarrassment of having to say "Yes, my name really IS _____." Only the town clerk in Liberty, New York knows that answer.

Now for the real reason you are reading this. As easy reading material on a recent trip I brought along the club's copy of *Fishing Bamboo: One Man's Love Affair with Bamboo Fly Rods* by John Gierach. I

hope I don't need to tell you who John Gierach is, or how popular and relevant his writings are to fly-fishers. But if you are one of the few out there who have yet to read a Gierach book, put down the rod and pick up one of his books some rainy day. I am told by one PFF member that the club library has his entire collection of books. That makes me happy, as I'm one of those old fuddy-duddy who likes a real book in his hands. IE, one made of paper, that I can actually turn and make notes on the pages. I don't think I'd ever go for one of those electric Ember-book-reading-things they sell at the fancy web stores. But I digress...

Fishing Bamboo is what I will refer to as a John Gierach "technical book". Instead of a collection of a dozen or more life-related short stories, these books give his views on a particular aspect of our sport. Other such books of his include subjects such as tying flies and fishing small streams. While *Fishing Bamboo* is a "technical", informative book, Gierach's smooth, easy-going, coming-from-the-passenger-seat-in-the-pickup style comes to the fore throughout. The guy can just write. If Gierach's writing were a distilled spirit, it would be whisky from an old tin mug, not cognac from a crystal snifter.

Fishing Bamboo outlines the past development, glory, and fade of the bamboo rod (note: bamboo rods are often called cane rods) as well as their current renaissance. It is a perfect combination of history and talk with current makers of such rods. What makes this book even more meaningful though is that Gierach is a bamboo rod aficionado himself. He owns several dozen such rods and is friends with numerous small bamboo rod makers. So he truly understands what makes such a rod special for a fly-fisher. But he is not a bamboo rod snob. Rather, he chooses to fish bamboo because he enjoys and appreciates that what he is holding in his hand is made of natural materials and crafted by human hands. Just as some folks can appreciate a canvas canoe, a pair of wooden skis, or a locally-brewed beer. While other folks out there, many with more money than common sense, buy bamboo rods just to keep them wrapped up in their cloth socks, John Gierach and his friends buy or barter for their rods to fish them. As they were made to do. So this book is not so much about collecting bamboo, rather more about *Fishing Bamboo*. Nor is it a detailed book on how to make a bamboo rod, although there are many ideas and opinions on what makes a good bamboo rod good. So if you are either curious about bamboo fly rods, or just wish to slow down and enjoy the smooth writing style that John Gierach is known for, I hope you will find *Fishing Bamboo* to be both informative and entertaining.

A quick admission, to save somebody from asking me, no I am not much of a bamboo rod fan myself. Although I do appreciate their beauty and craftsmanship, just because I'm older than the hills doesn't mean you'll find me dressed in Tweed and getting all Zen-like about the past glories of bamboo. Of course I did fish a lot of them (and broke a lot of them) back in the day, but that's because they were the only game in town. And they were never high-end affairs either; my favorite (the only one I still own) was a mass-produced Montague which I bought at some small town hardware in Vermont. As soon as fiberglass came onto the scene in the 1950s I and most of my friends made the switch. These days I still prefer fiberglass or some of the slower, bendier graphites. Admittedly, very rarely, I will break-out that old Montague for a quiet evening on our pond. But never dressed in Tweed.

With the PFF on hiatus for the summer, Members in good standing may take materials from the club library until the next meeting in September. So how about grabbing a Gierach book or three for the summer?!

Support your club library and enjoy your summer,

Quill Gordon