



# Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Monthly Meeting Sept 6, 2017 at 6:00pm**



Two decades ago, a small group of dedicated fly fishers formed a new organization--the Penobscot Fly Fishers. To celebrate our club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, an organizing committee has planned a special banquet at Bangor's Spectacular Events Center on the evening of September 6th.

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.

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

Hank Metcalf, Chairman, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Thank you to all who have committed to this reservation-only, sit-down dinner event by the August deadline. Since the dinner is hosted by the Spectacular Events Center, we are unable to accommodate walk-ins for the social hour and dinner and meeting program.

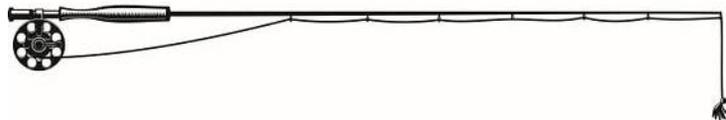


## **From the President's Fly Box**

In 1997, twenty-one anglers decided to form an organization to promote the sport of fly fishing. Twenty years later, the organization has grown to over 115 members and is excelling in promoting fly fishing through a variety of club activities focused on education, conservation, community outreach, and fishing outings. The strength of the club, its outstanding reputation in the community, and accomplishments since its beginning are solely based on the strength of its members who have willingly volunteered their time and shared their fly fishing knowledge to promote the sport. The faces may have changed over the years, but the spirit and dedication of our members have remained a constant. So I salute all members, past and present, for a job well done. The past is history and the future is ours to make.

Ed Dailide

## **20th Anniversary Fly Rod Raffle**



We have commissioned Don Corey of Annika Rod & Fly to build a Penobscot Fly Fishers 20th Anniversary Commemorative Fly Rod to Raffle this fall. The rod is a 9' 4-piece 4 weight and will include a case. We will have the rod on display and raffle tickets available at the Anniversary Dinner on September 6th. Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be limited to 300 tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn as soon as the last ticket is sold!!! If you would like to buy tickets and can't make it to a meeting, contact Rob Dunnett at [class@penobscotflyfishers.com](mailto:class@penobscotflyfishers.com) .



The Library Review- September  
2017  
by Quill Gordon

*The Benchside Introduction to Fly  
Tying*  
*Ted Leeson & Jim Schollmeyer*  
190 pgs



Greetings great fly-fishers of the Penobscot! So glad to still be here and back with the PFF. Hope you are having as enjoyable a season of fishing as I am. Summer is a whirlwind of activity up here North of Bangor. Between keeping an old hay-and-tree farm going, required travels, and of course fishing, all I can say is “Where has the summer gone?” And I think so far it has been the best in decades; not too hot, not too cold, not too wet, not too dry. At least for me it is just right.

I had the opportunity to take a trip back to the Catskills in July thanks in part to my editor and friend Paul. Because of my age, that is a big trip for me these days, so he offered to drive and I offered to secure us a week's lodging. We wound up staying with old friends the Darbees, outside of Roscoe NY, on the Willowemoc Stream. Even though it was well into July, some great fishing for trout was to be had in the mornings and evenings. During the afternoons, we relaxed on the Darbee's big porch overlooking the Willow to tell stories, read books, take naps, and tie flies. Harry and his wife Elsie are both accomplished tyers, so we were in excellent company and learned much. Even though my Father was said to be a noted tyer in his time, I didn't learn from him as he passed away when I was very young. Instead, I learned from one of his friends, Roy Steenrod of Liberty NY. He and Father fished and tied together back-in-the-day, so Roy sort of looked after me and made sure I was taught right. The rest I picked up over the years with the help of fishing companions, club classes, and numerous books. And I have never stopped learning, so that is where this is all going, to a great new book about fly tying.

OK, I know what you are thinking. “Is that old boiled-owl really talking about fly-tying NOW? In summer?? REALLY!?” While fly-tying “season” IS typically thought of as being during the cooler, non-fishing months, most of us do tie on and off year-round. Admittedly one of my small pleasures in life is a summer's evening spent listening to a Red Sox game on the Houlton radio station and tying a handful of flies. Sometimes, if the game is close and the tying is going well, I'll stay up until almost 10:00pm. This time of year, I am tying to replace the handful I recently lost in various trees and bushes and rocks. And I often do need a reference book or three to refresh my failing memory on the specifics of a pattern or technique. The club recently received a copy of *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying* by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer which was donated by Tom McDowell, a PFFer from Pennsylvania. This instructional book provides both basic fly-tying methods and step-by-step fly and streamer

patterns together, but not on the same pages. The way it does so is very unique. Upon opening the hardcover and 25 or so introductory pages, the book is divided in half horizontally, so it is like having two books in one. The upper half contains over 100 pattern recipes; this is section A. The lower half contains all techniques needed to tie any fly in the book; this is section B. The choice of patterns is very complete, from nymphs to streamers to dries to terrestrials. The only category I found lacking was that of traditional winged wets, which is a shame as these patterns continue to produce fish.

So, to use *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying* as it is meant to be, one would first use the index or table of contents to locate a desired pattern. Let's choose one of my favorites, a Light Cahill dry, whose page listing is 96A. Turn the upper half of the book to page 96A and there is a full color photo of this lovely fly, along with the typical recipe and a short description of the fly and how it is best fished. Then the pattern-specific step-by-step instructions are shown on a single set of side-by-side pages. As one follows these instructions, references are made to specific techniques or methods used to assemble the fly. For instance, in Step 4 of the Light Cahill one is directed to assemble the wings using the divided fiber wings technique and a page reference of p.134B is listed. If one already knows how to make a divided fiber wing, do so and move onto Step 5. But, if one does not know, now turn the lower half of the book to page 134B to find step-by-step instructions of how to create a divided fiber wing. Although all of this turning and flipping of pages may sound cumbersome at first, it is actually the opposite and the real genius of the book. One may keep the pattern recipe open and in view at all times while at the same time follow any specific tying methods needed to complete the fly. Put another way, it either allows one to follow step-by-step the entire tying process, or merely check the recipe or refresh a single forgotten technique. And one small but important note: The *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying* is spiral bound! To me, it is so, SO important that a book of this type can be opened and left open on the desk without having to clamp or weigh-down the pages. Good heads-up by the publisher.

This is definitely a reference one will take years to out-grow, if ever. The perfect user of *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying* would be someone who has learned the hands-on basics of fly tying and now wants to increase both their skills and variety of flies in their box. If you have recently completed the PFF's Basic Fly Tying course, or maybe are fortunate to have been taught by the superb Don Corey at Annika Rod and Fly, then *The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying* is the reference for you. And it is waiting for YOU in the club's fine library. But hurry as I suspect this book will be in constant demand.

Support you club library and thank you for reading this far,  
Quill Gordon