



Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

OCT 2017

Monthly Meeting Oct 4, 2017 @ 6:00pm

October 4, 2017 Speaker

Richard Hero is a lifelong fly-tier and fly-fisherman, and a longtime member and supporter of many local, state, and national environmental and wildlife organizations, including PFF. He is a charter board member of the National Fisheries Friends Partnership (NFFP), a volunteer organization supporting and educating fisheries friends groups in North America. He is a "Lifetime" member of The Friends of Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery (Atlantic Salmon) in Orland, ME, and was elected President of the Friends in September 2008, serving in that capacity for five years. His presentation will be on the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in Orland, ME. Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery was established in 1889 to raise and stock juvenile Atlantic salmon for Maine waters. Craig Brook currently supports seven river specific brood stocks of Atlantic salmon. He will give a brief history of the hatchery and highlight the activities of the Friends of Craig Brook that support the hatchery, including operating the Atlantic Salmon Fly Fishing Museum.



From the President's Fly Box



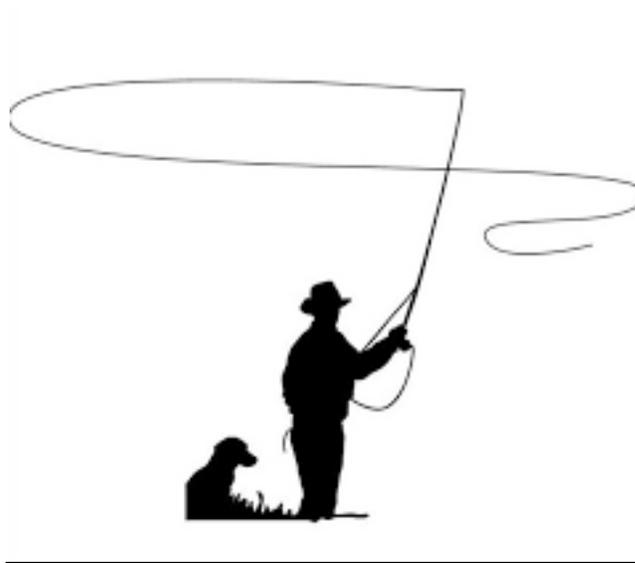
Wow, what a weather year! It looked like spring would never leave. Now summer is hanging on with 80 + degrees in late September. This has certainly turned the traditional fishing regimen upside down. Normally we'd be out there getting some end-of-season salmon trolling in. Now I'm having to find willing bass in my home waters to satisfy the angling itch.

Nevertheless, we are fortunate that numerous opportunities abound in our area before it is necessary to put away the tackle and dust off the fly tying vise. This is still one of the prettiest times to be out on the water and get some fly fishing in before truly cold weather makes its appearance. Before venturing out to fish on a favorite body of water, let's not forget to check fishing regulations. Winter fishing regulations go into effect on October 1st.

I can't finish this note without recognizing the wonderful job done by the 20th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Hank Metcalf, in organizing the special September dinner celebration. A good time was had by all! Bravo Zulu! (Well Done!).

On a sadder note, we lost Bill Blatz. A long time club member and strong supporter, who unselfishly devoted countless hours helping others enjoy the sport of fly fishing. Our sincere condolences go out to Nancy and the Blatz family.

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In Memory of Robert J. Blatz

By Joe Bertolaccini & Hank Metcalf

Bob was a great fishing companion. Many days at Sourdnahunk he would stay out fishing all day long in windy or rainy weather, even when the action was slow. His stories of teaching experiences in New York always kept us entertained. We had fun kidding Bob about his New York accent, which he took with amusing response. We celebrated his 80th birthday at Soudy on September 13, 2011, his last fishing trip north with us and just before he had a stroke, which slowed him down a bit. A few years ago we trolled the length of Sysladobsis Lake in Hank's boat for a round trip of 16 miles with just one salmon caught. No complaint came from Bob. He enjoyed the opportunity to be on the water. It should be noted that Bob and Nancy were exhibitors at our Cabin Fever Reliever in the first year at Old Town and subsequent years until 2016. He tied and sold many of his unique fly pattern called the Thunder Creek. The fly was somewhat to represent a wounded smelt. He gave a few of these to a former member from Millinocket, who reported good success in the West Branch below the Ripogenus Dam turbines.

During his many years with the club, Bob's most enjoyable moments were teaching children and young adults the basics of tying flies, being an accomplished, innovative fly tyer himself. For several years we went to Greenland Point Center on Long Lake in Princeton, where Bob took the lead teaching fly tying to young campers. This involved three classes on each of three Thursdays in the middle of the summer. Bob demonstrated great patience as well as enthusiasm for fly fishing.



His loyalty and dedication to the Penobscot Fly Fishers was expressed in many ways. We note he very often wore the club shirt that displayed the PFF emblem. He also was in charge of procuring and selling PFF shirts, decals, caps as well as many other items. Bob was an outstanding credit to our club, receiving the prestigious Gray Ghost Award in 2012.



On August 31 we had the privilege of visiting Bob and Nancy at their home in the woods of Monroe, where the back of the property borders on Marsh Stream. Bob stated he has caught a few trout there in the past. This summer Bob had gone through kidney shut down and then pneumonia. Nancy raved about the excellent care Bob received at the Maine General Hospital in Augusta. We noted their young dog, Budweiser, was quite friendly and was a close companion to Bob. He will sorely be missed by everyone he touched.

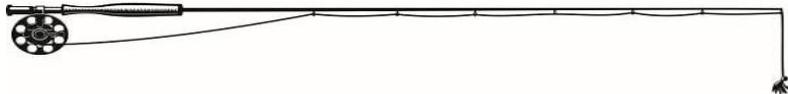
Brewer H.S. Fly Tying

It's that time of year again, when the Penobscot Fly Fishers teach basic fly tying to students of the Brewer High School Outdoors Adventure Program. Our club has offered this opportunity to B.H.S. for several years now, and it has always been a successful collaboration. As members of the Outdoor Program, these students are attentive and eager to learn. And this is one of the club's major public outreach events.

This year we will be at B.H.S for four days, from Monday October 23 through Thursday October 26. Typically, we do three sessions a day, each session being about 1 hour-plus. And we really, REALLY need club volunteers to make this another successful year. If you can give a morning, a day, or even all four days, please let me know. The more club members we have, the smoother this class runs. Do not worry if you are not an expert tyer; if you can operate a vise and a bobbin, and can help tie a Wooly Worm, you are expert enough! And best of all, lunch is provided by B.H.S. What could be better than tying flies, hanging out with a posse from the PFF, AND enjoying a savory free lunch? If you can help, please contact Paul Markson at 907-4744 or email oronopaul@yahoo.com. Thank you.



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 October Membership meeting. October 4th. 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 .



2018 Basic Fly Tying Class

The Penobscot Fly Fishers are pleased to be offering their annual fly tying class. The six-week course will be held on Mondays from 6 to 8 PM at the Penobscot County Conservation Association, 570 North Main St., Brewer, ME. The first class takes place on Monday, January 8, 2018.

The course is designed to expose students to a variety of tying tools, techniques, and materials to give them a solid foundation in this aspect of the sport of fly fishing. Each class will start with a discussion of the pattern to be tied and the materials used for the pattern, followed by a tying demonstration of the pattern by one of our instructors.

Afterwards students will head to their vises to practice the pattern under the tutelage of our staff. There should be ample time for each student to complete a number of flies each night. As time allows, we will also show variations of the patterns tied in class, display different types of fly tying vises, and provide information about the life cycle of the living forms the tied flies are intended to imitate.

The course fee is \$40, which includes all necessary materials and the use of fly tying tools during class time. Students who already have tying equipment are more than welcome to bring it. The class is limited to 30 students on a first-come, first-serve basis. All students under 17 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone participating in the class will be required to sign a [waiver form](#).

Please make checks payable to **Penobscot Fly Fishers**. The mailing address is:

Penobscot Fly Fishers
PO Box 651
Brewer, Maine 04412

Payment can also be made via the PayPal link on the PFF website.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Rob Dunnnett at email -- class@penobscotflyfishers.com



PENOBSCOT FLY FISHERS GEAR SWAP



Beginning at the October general membership meeting, Zack Dunnett will be overseeing a new Penobscot Fly Fishers Gear Swap Table. The table will be a place for members to sell or trade fishing equipment and outdoor related items. Anyone wishing to participate should bring their items to the meeting during the social hour between 5 and 6. If you have any questions contact Zack by email at zackflyfisher@gmail.com .

PENOBSCOT FLY FISHERS GEAR SWAP RULES

- All items must be tagged with the sellers name and asking price.
- No firearms may be sold in the gear swap.
- Any unsold items are the responsibility of the seller. If items are left behind, they will be disposed of at the clubs discretion.
- The club takes no responsibility for any sales nor the items sold. All sales are to be treated as private transactions between the parties involved.

Please enjoy pictures from our 20th Anniversary Dinner















Remember: <http://www.PenobscotFlyFishers.com/> for the latest news, history, calendar of events, club letters, cabin fever relievers, photos and videos, classes, resources, and contact information.

To submit an article for consideration, please send to: NewsLetter@PenobscotFlyFishers.com

