



January Newsletter

-Meetings on third Thursday of the Month-

Annual Party/Auction a Big Hit

Hundreds of quality items were sold at the annual Christmas Party and Auction.

Nearly all of the items were sold well below the normal retail price and were to become new additions to those tackle-boxes and fishing vests of the lucky winners.

There were more than a dozen fly rods of various sizes and materials. Hooks, tying materials and tools were all sold to eager

“customers” at rock-bottom prices. It was a real good time for eve-

ntivities, and some homemade cookies to boot.



Sam Vigorita auctions some items at the Annual Christmas/Season End Party

Many of the auction items were donated by members and supporters, like our friends at Mainstream Outfitters in Doylestown, while other items were auctioned with a reserve amount maintained for the seller.

ryone. There was plenty of food, that members brought in for the fes-

This was a great way to conclude 2008 and prepare for next year.

Mark Sedotti Slated for January Meeting



Mark is a respected fly casting instructor and teacher who has written articles that have been published in the: “American Angler, Fly Tier, Outdoor Life, The Fisherman,” and more featuring trout, pike and other species of fish. As the Casting Columnist for Saltwater Fly Fishing Magazine (1995-2000), Mark is known for his articles on Striped Bass, Bluefish, and False Albacore.

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Special points of interest:

- Fly Tying Contest coming soon
- Fly Tying/Fly Fishing winter classes start in February
- Next meeting on Thursday January 15th
- Penns Creek trip slated for June 6. Make reservations at The Feathered Hook
- Somerset NJ Fly Fishing Show Jan 23-25

Try a little CDC—it's not just for dry flies, you know...

It's been touted as "The Fisherman's Miracle Feather" in books like *Tying Flies with CDC* by Leon Links and has been used extensively on many "floating" flies ever since the 1980's. The "miracle" part is probably a little overstated but it does have some properties that help turn a good fly into a great one.



The floatability of this material is often attributed to the natural oils that it gets from the duck's backside but a close look at the feathers themselves shows that it's more likely the construction of the down itself traps air and helps support the fly in the surface film. There's a good chance that it's

the materials secondary properties that are responsible for its effectiveness. The feathers fibers themselves are extremely supple and offer barely any wind resistance at all during casting, thereby preventing a twisted leader condition. This same property gives the material some *life* once the fly is in the surface film. It's this lifelike behavior that makes it especially good for submerged flies or for emergers fished in the film.

The material is so light and downy it's a little hard to tie with until you get used to working with it. A slight cough or sneeze will send it airborne and you'll be on all fours looking for your prize feathers. A small rough spot of skin on a finger or fingernail also makes it difficult to work with the feathers but little bit of sanding will correct problems of this type.

It can't be overstated the way this superior buoyancy and the subtle movements of this material during casting and floating make this a good choice for fishing over selective trout. Make sure that you have a few packets of CDC in your tying box.

CDC works very well in tying midge patterns as it adds very little bulk during the tying process. This helps in maintaining a slender profile and permits those troublesome size 20's and down to be made.



Beginner Tying Classes begin in Spring

This beginning fly tying class will cover the basic techniques of tying flies and prepare you for the opening day of trout season. The course will cover the tools, materials, and terminology you need to get started. Students will be taught how to tie nymphs, streamers, wet flies, and dry flies all of which are effective, proven trout catchers on our local streams. If you've ever wanted to learn how to tie flies this is the course you need to get started. The instructor is a member of the Main Line Fly Tyers and has been teaching fly tying for over 15 years.



Streamer Fly being constructed

Date: Tuesdays, February 17 – March 31 (No class on March 10)

Time:.....7:15 - 9:15 p.m.

Location:.....Lower Providence Township Administration Building

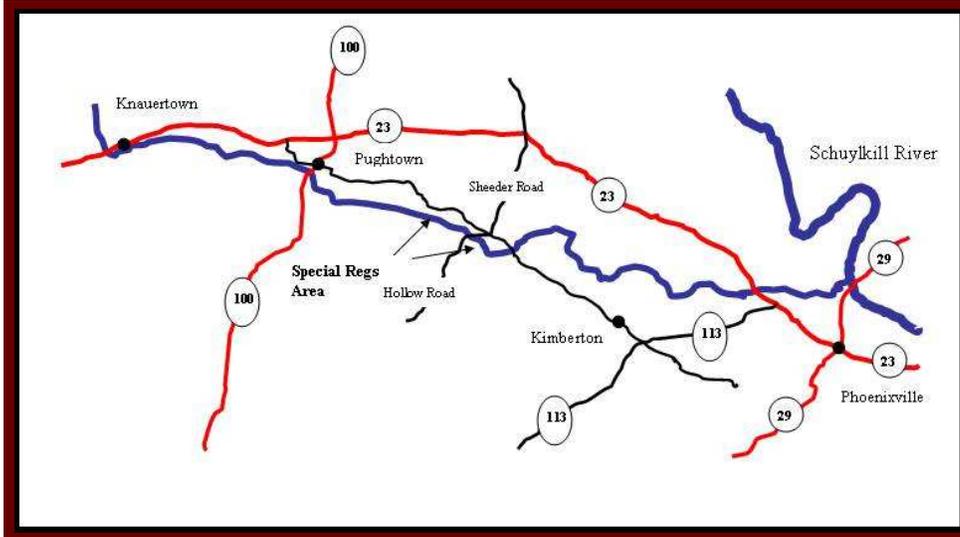
Fee:.....\$42 Resident, \$52 Non-Resident

Stream Watch—French Creek

It's not the Frying Pan in Colorado, or the Snake River in Wyoming. It's not even Penns Creek here in Pennsylvania—but it is a pretty good trout stream for being so close to the heavily populated suburb of Philadelphia, such as it is. Sure, it's a mostly put-and-take fishery and it does get pretty warm during a hot summer day but it holds a surprising number of respectable sized trout.

For those who just need to *get away* it really is a fairly good sanctuary, if you can time your visits to the creek to the off-peak times. It has its share of stocking truck chasers and a few hardware-slingers but for all of its faults it's not an extremely hard stream to fish. There's plenty of room to back cast, the hatches are sporadic but plentiful, and it is fairly accessible from both sides of the stream for a good part of its distance. In spite of the thousands of fishermen who fish it annually, I've found myself totally alone in the stream from time to time. It's a comfort to know that a fairly good trout stream is nestled in this rural setting within a short drive from the hustle and bustle of King of Prussia and not far from the

Limerick power plant. French Creek doesn't hold any great secrets but it probably does



French Creek Map

hide what many put-and-take streams do in that it contains a few *holdover* trout. We're not talking about lunkers here—but we are



French Creek from the Covered Bridge

talking about respectable trout in the twenty inch range. The reason that I know this is because I actually caught one, one day. Sadly, it was a total fluke that I can't take

any credit for, what-so-ever. I had the rod tucked under my arm while I was greeting an old colleague of mine that had just happened to wander by. The Catskill wet-fly that I was using was dragging badly in the current when a beautiful unmarked rainbow hit it like a blue fish. After the initial shock I "skillfully" played in the terrified fish, carefully netted it, and nonchalantly let it go—as if this was an every-

day occurrence for me. My friend was left mouth widely opened, bug-eyed, and speechless. I wasn't about to tell him that it was entirely dumb luck on my part.

This entire event occurred within sight of my car and in the most heavily fished areas of the *delayed harvest* section of the stream. For those who know the stream, it was right at the bend in the creek near where the meatpacking plant used to be.

When cabin fever hits you like a rock, pick a nice day, throw the rod and waders into the SUV and give it a try.

Leave Kimberton on Kimberton road heading west. The road becomes Pughtown road and continues west for about two miles. The delayed harvest section is 0.9 miles long. Good luck!

Winter Classes to begin in Upper Moreland Township



Sam Vigorita & Dave Shillington
instructors

The winter session of classes for
Fly Tying (beginner & advanced)

and *Fly Fishing Tactics & Strategies* will be running in February at Upper Moreland Township Parks & Recreation Dept. at 117 Park Ave. in Willow Grove, PA. The *Tactics classes* will be on 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/19, 2/24 & 3/2. The *tying classes* will be on 2/5, 2/12, 2/15, 2/26, 3/5, & 3/12 all at 7 PM.

Late registration is allowed but pre-registration is highly suggested by contacting Gail Rosen at 215-659-3100 ext.1038.

These are well-established courses that have been offered to the club members and the general public for many years. Here's a great chance to learn the skills that you would like to acquire; whether you're a beginner or not.

There's a minimal fee and some of the proceeds are later returned to the club. Sam Vigorita and Dave Shillington of MLFT will be running these informative and valuable classes.

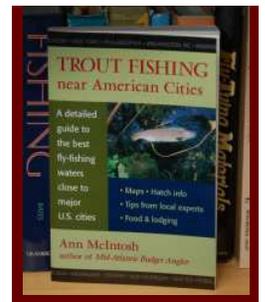
Book Review– “Trout Fishing near American Cities” author Ann McIntosh

Here's a great reference for the poor working fisherman that lacks the luxury of time and wants to fish an unknown area during a long “lunch” break or evening after work. The author does a fantastic job of providing a wealth of information by assuming that the reader knows nothing of the area in question. She provides maps, hatch charts, local fly shops, and goes on to supply valuable info on

food and lodging. The book dissects the country into seven regions and identifies at least four major cities in each region. At 342 pages, this one really puts out enough details to be genuine value. As one who drives across the country and fishes along the way, I need to have accurate information to be able to plan my stops in advance. It will take some time to determine how accurate

the fishing tips are but based on the endorsements on the back cover I'd expect that they're pretty good. They include Al Caucci, Lefty Kreh, and others-

Editor



Refreshments Served at Each Meeting

Refreshments are being provided at each meeting by Kathleen McKenzie and Jerry Usatch who have volunteered to continue this most-appreciated service to member and their guests. A special word of “thanks” to Kurt Griffin for providing this service over the past few years.

It's a pleasant break to have a cup of java, a donut and share the-one-that-got-away stories with our guest speakers and old friends.

Thanks, again for these refreshments and we'll try our best to keep the area *reasonably* clean!





MAIN LINE FLY-TYERS

Greater Plymouth Community Center
2910 Jolly Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Club Officers:
President: Steve Birkenmaier
Vice Pres.: Gil Learn
Treasurer: Frank Howard
Newsletter: Dwaine Glidden
Secretary: Al Kotake
Librarian: Jim Costello
Website: Mike Ebner

submit newsletter items and suggestions to:
dglidden43@verizon.net

We're on the Web
www.mainlineflytyers.net

Driving Directions:

From Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276)

Take Exit 333 (Norristown - old exit 25). At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Plymouth Road. At the light, turn right onto Germantown Pike West. Continue approximately one (1) mile, through four (4) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

From Blue Route (I-476)

Take exit for Germantown Pike West (Exit 20). Continue on Germantown Pike west for approximately one (1) mile, through five (5) traffic lights (not counting the left hand turn light at Sandy Hill Road). At the fifth light, turn right onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

From Route 202

Follow Route 202 to Germantown Pike. Travel EAST on Germantown Pike, through five (5) traffic lights. At the next traffic light, approximately half a mile, turn left onto Jolly Road. The Community Center is on the right at 2910 Jolly Road.

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Thursday of the month
starting at 7PM*

Back Casts—Housecleaning your Photo Files during Winter



*Member's Granddaughter helps in spotting a possible "victim"
In a snapshot taken on the Little Lehigh*

The winter season is a great time to look back through some photo files and clean house of some of the extraneous files that use up valuable hard drive space. It's a perfect time to take advantage of the long winter

nights and improve your bookkeeping skills, to boot.

During a recent *file purge* I stumbled on a photo of me and my Granddaughter, Lizzie, taken during a beautiful summer day in Allentown. The photo dates back a couple of years so I'm a little greyer and she's a little taller since the picture was taken. It warmed my heart to see how the casual snapshot caught

us at a particular stage of both of our lives. The years have taken their toll on my once sharp eyes that could spot a trout at almost any distance. Now they're being assisted by young and eager eyes that scanned the water and

spotted a trout well below the broken surface without effort.

There's another big plus that comes from the housecleaning exercise - you can do it slowly and linger over a photo or two that brings back fond memories - sometimes you'll remember an encounter with a particular trout that may or may not have been caught. By replaying the details of the event you may have gained some knowledge that will be useful the next time around.

We probably learn more from the trout that we've lost than from the ones that we've caught. As disturbing as a *break off* is at the time, there's at least one lesson to be learned in the experience. Did you play it too hard or too soft? Was it the right fly? Was the leader too light? But don't take this too far and over think the event—sometimes it's just bad luck! At least that's how I look at it.—editor