
FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

TWIN TIERS-FIVE RIVERS CHAPTER

[Canisteo-Chemung-Cohocton-Susquehanna-Tioga Rivers in NY South & PA North Tiers] www.TwinTiersFFF.org Apr 2007

NEXT MEETING April 2

Bill Kessler - Do It Yourself Bonefishing

Our own FFF member Bill Kessler will share his secrets of fishing for 'Bones'. 'Bones' are widely distributed around the world with "local" waters in the Bahamas, South Florida including the Key flats, and Caribbean well known hot spots. These fighting fish normally run 2 to 13 pounds. Fishing for them may require a degree of patience due to the ever-changing climatic conditions on the flats. Winds and water temperatures may tax a fisherman's skill levels in finding and reaching the fish. 'Bones' are usually fished in very shallow water from a mere few inches to just a few feet in depth.

An average day on the flats might reveal 15 to 30 schools containing anywhere from 40 to 400 'bones'. Depending upon fishermen's luck, one might expect to catch from a few to over 40 in a single day. Of course that all depends on a number of factors not the least of which is having a good guide who knows 'bones' inside and out.

Peak 'bone' fishing is usually considered March, April and May because that seems to be the best liked by the fishermen. However, June, July, and August reportedly are not as hot as one would expect in that latitude. The cool windward breezes make for comfortable fishing and the lower wind velocities make it easier to fish.

Several of our members travel every year to hunt for 'bones'. It is not an exact science and learning from those who know the ropes can help turn a ho-hum 'bone' fishing vacation into a super colossal experience. If you are thinking about 'bone' fishing then your FFF meeting on this coming Monday evening was programmed just for you. Come and welcome Bill as this month's featured program speaker.

March Meeting Highlights

At our March meeting, Greg Heffner gave a great presentation starting with a historical account of the Rangeley or New England style streamers. This was

followed by a demonstration on how to tie the Grey Ghost. Ed Ryan rented a video cameo so we all could see on the TV monitor what Greg was doing. Thanks Ed! And to buy a couple Sally Hansen It took Greg to tie one fly- imagine what it would take the rest of us.



Tying the Carrie Stevens Grey Ghost



TWIN TIERS-FIVE RIVERS meeting notes:

- 1) Per the national FFF office in Montana, we have signed up 22 new members and qualify for a new Temple Fork 9' TiCR X 4-piece fly rod, either a 5 wt or 8 wt. We need to design an auction for club members so that someone gets to take this rod home, and the club gets some money in its treasury. Please send ideas (or call) Pres. John as he'd like to have this done very soon. Then, he will order the rod and present it at the May or June meeting, depending on how soon it arrives.
- 2) Keith Matthews and Ed Ryan volunteered to attend the Chemung River Council meetings as representatives of the FFF. The Council is working to decide priorities for riverfront improvement in Elmira and surrounding communities. Walking trails, a pedestrian bridge, more access points, a formal canoe portage around the dam, and toilets at the Grove St. boat launch are among the ideas on the table.
- 3) Dick Paul and Russ Hyde are meeting with Dan Drake at Broadway Middle School (Elmira Southside) to talk about supporting an after school fly tying program. 38 kids expressed interest in the first 90 minutes that signups were allowed. Dan has already purchased the necessary fly tying tools and materials from Ray. They

believe the club will run 3:30 to 5:00 one day a week until school is out for the summer. Russ and Dick will be HOLLERING for volunteers as soon as they have the dates worked out. [Ed note- this is underway--]

4) Russ ran into Nancy Reidy - Big Flats youth activities person and learned they are very interested in developing one or more ponds for fishing. Pres. John Lively will call and/or visit her to discuss further. Dick Naylor ventured that his National Guard unit may be available to assist with excavation, construction, and other improvements as part of the development.

5) Dick Naylor and Russ Hyde each took a bunch of Ed Shenk club May meeting program flyers to distribute at Health Works in Corning, and the Chemung Sportsman's Club.

6) Stocking local streams and lakes is underway. Cayuta Creek and the Cohocton River were both stocked the week of March 25th. Float stocking was not done on the Cayuta due to high water.

7) Friday March 16 - legislative luncheon with NYS Rep. O'Mara and Bacalles and Sen. Winner, sponsored by the Chemung Federation. Dick Paul will attend. Jake has a prior engagement.

8) We held a 3:2:1:0 raffle at the meeting break. First ticket called got to pick three items from the table, second ticket got two, and third got one and the last ticket had to pick from the grab bag. That was Jake, but he got lucky and pulled out a Salmon Fly pin.

9) Allan Podel reported that he has just a few tickets left to sell on the bamboo rod raffle and will pick a winning ticket at the April meeting. Net proceeds to go to the Lavris memorial bench fund. Dick Paul reported that he received \$150 in donations this evening and that combined with the rod raffle money and other donations means that he has enough to finance the purchases. Hence there was no need to petition the club for further donations.

10) Cayuta Creek Special Regs area cleanup- Pres. John Lively visited the tax office and identified the landowners along the special regulations area on Cayuta Creek. He called the person who owns the most heavily used stream section and got an OK to prune the large multiflora rose bushes there. John will set up a date and time when the club can do this.

11) There will be no Kids Fishing Derby at Park Station this year. That's just a rumor at this point.

12) There are two dates in June when the club can participate in water related activities:

Steuben water day, Sunday June 3, noon - 4 PM in Hammondsport

Chemung River Fest, Saturday June 9th, 11 AM - 3 PM at Grove Street boat launch in Elmira. The idea would be to have a booth with a couple of fly rods for people to try and some membership flyers and forms.

13) Charity Catch and Release- The "4th Annual Southern Tier Fishing Derby" -- Saturday June 16, Otsiningo Park, Binghamton - This is a catch and release derby. Prizes will be awarded for the 5 largest carp and single smallest carp. Carp fishing is restricted to Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. Also prizes will be awarded for the largest Blue Gill- 1st through 5th place. In addition to fishing there will be family fun - our mascot - Johnny Carp will be there, games, bouncy house, silent auction, 50/50 raffles, concession stand and door prizes. There will be a special drawing for early-bird registrations. Funds raised benefit local charities. For more information visit www.southerntierfishingderby.com or contact Jeff Miller at 607-770-6330. There will be a fly fishing entry for Carp this year and there will be a prize for the largest Carp in that category - Total value will have to depend on the amount of registered fly fishing participants. Perhaps a few club members would like to car-pool. Does anyone know a good corn-fly pattern? [For directions to Otsiningo Park see Tom Rood. He swam near there as a teenager.]

14) Snow fishes Dave and Cheryl Gardner have returned looking tan as usual.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING around the Twin Tiers and Five Rivers by tuning into your club's web site which is updated regularly by club pres John Lively. www.TwinTiersFFF.org. Past newsletters and club library listings are available on-line.

FUTURE CLUB PROGRAMING

Scott Fredrick and Kirk Klingensmith are continuing to plan your club's schedule. If you have a good program to suggest - please call Kirk at 607-562-3344 or e-mail at kklingensmi@stny.rr.com

Mark these dates on your calendars, programs will begin promptly at 7 pm and, unless otherwise specified, be held at the Big Flats Community center.

May 7- Ed Shenk, noted fly tier and angler

The Twin Tiers Five Rivers FFF will host noted author and fly angler Ed Shenk on May 7th. Ed caught his first fly-caught trout at age seven and has tied flies for nearly 70 years, originating the flat wing LeTort Hopper, LeTort Cricket, Shenk Cress Bug, Shenk Sculpin and Shenk White Minnow. Ed also designed the double trico and double olive.

Ed has tied flies for President Jimmy Carter and fished in New York, New Jersey, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Argentina. Along the way he completed a degree in forestry at Penn State, served in World War II, and held a career as a land use planner.



Ed's articles have appeared in Sports Afield, Field and Stream, Fly Fisherman, Flyfisher, Trout, Pennsylvania Angler, Fly Fishing Heritage, Fly Rod and Reel, American Angler, and American Fly Tyer. He also wrote "Fly Rod Trouting" (by Stackpole) in 1988, released a video in 2000 called "Ed Shenk, Master of the LeTort", and is currently writing "70 Years with a Fly Rod".

Ed's talk, "**Fishing Spring Creeks**", will be a rare opportunity to gain some insight into fly fishing the famous limestone creeks of southern Pennsylvania from one of the true masters of our sport. This presentation is open to the public. Please invite friends. We will charge a \$5 donation, which will be waived for FFF members.

June 4- **John Gaulke** - Unique Flyfishing in the Finger Lakes

Club meeting programs are also on-line on the club's web site: www.twintiersFFF.org

CLUB LIBRARY

The TT-5R Chapter has its own library. If you have books, periodicals, tapes, or CD-ROMs involving flyfishing in any aspect that you wish to donate for this program, please bring your donations to any meeting. Gary Shaw has had to resign his position as club librarian, due to his work schedule conflicting with our meeting nights. This position remains open – please talk to one of the club officers if you are interested. The club library list is up on the club web site www.twintiersFFF.org.

MicroDots

These are Velcro and stick on reel bodies. They are great for holding the end of your tippet so it doesn't catch up in the body of the reel. No more lost tippet ends. A package of three normally sells for \$5.95 but you can get a pretty good discount if you buy them from the club. You'll want one for all your fly reels. See Dick Naylor for yours.

Invitations

*If you know of fly fishers living within 50 miles of the Elmira-Corning area of New York who might be interested in learning more about our FFF Twin Tiers-Five River group, let your club president or secretary know. When joining the FFF for the first time, please insert "**Twin Tiers-Five Rivers**" where Club Affiliation is requested on the new membership application form to become part of our group.*

Twin Tiers Five Rivers Chapter of the FFF is a non-profit group where the only requirement to belong is a current membership in the FFF. TT5R does not collect initiation fees or collect dues. While business meetings are for FFF members only, the program part of meetings is open to the public.

Directions to Big Flats Community Center: Exit off NY Rte 17/I-86 at Exit 49. Go south. At tee turn left onto Maple St. Follow Maple St. for approximately 0.2 miles. Community Center will be on your right just beyond the town hall.
John Lively- Pres- (607.739.8791 Email jlively@stny.rr.com)
Tom Rood- Sec/Editor (315.536.2556 E-mail TKRood@Localnet.com)

The Federation of Fly Fishers is a 41-year-old organization working to conserve, restore and educate through fly-fishing. The FFF is the only organization that advocates for fly anglers on all waters. *Join the Federation of Fly Fishers.* Send a check for \$35 (seniors over 65 \$25) to **Federation of Fly Fishers, PO Box 1595, Bozeman, MT 59771.** Include Twin Tiers-Five Rivers as your club affiliation on your FFF membership form to be recognized as part of the TT-5R Chapter. Join or renew FFF membership online at www.fedflyfishers.org or by phone at 406.222.9369

Club Web Site www.TwinTiersFFF.org

NEXT CLUB MEETING: Monday April 2, 7 p.m.
Bill Kessler - Do It Yourself Bonefishing
Big Flats Community Center

Federation of Fly Fishers
Twin Tiers-5 Rivers Chapter
C/o Tom Rood, Secretary
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