



Tie One On

December, 2013

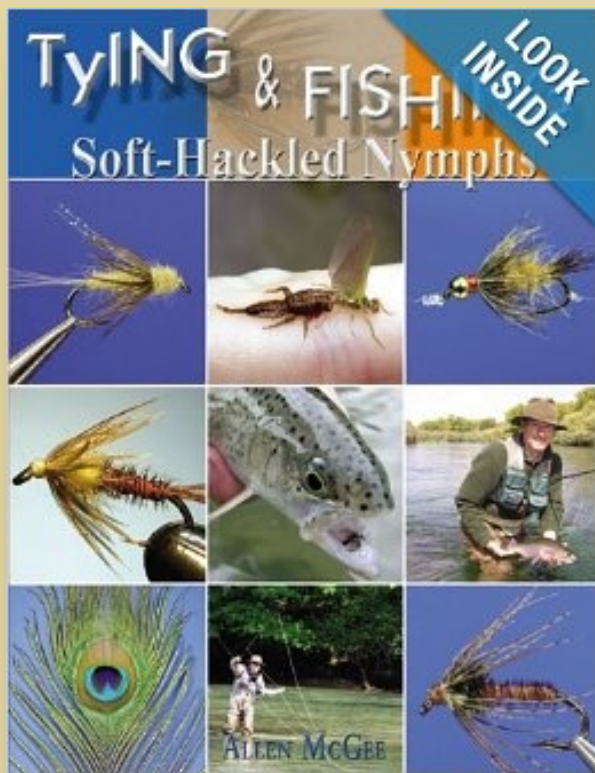
President: Joe Duket
Secretary: Frank Retter
Webmaster: Larry Bundy

Vice President: Pat Bradley
Treasurer: Frank Glowaski

The next meeting will be:

**Thursday, December 12th
Cadence Bank, Blairsville, GA**

The fly tying session begins at 5:00 pm and the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.



We are pleased to have as our speaker this month author, woodworker and fly tyer Allen McGee.

Allen's presentation will be "Progressive Soft-Hackle Strategies", a discussion of modern soft-hackled wet flies and how to use them to match natural trout stream insects. He will highlight matching the hatch by using some of his original soft-hackle methods and presentations. There will also be a video examination of caddis and mayfly natural behavior and how to imitate this with materials in our flies.

Allen grew up fishing for bass and bluegill on his family's farm ponds in Northwestern Missouri. Since moving to Georgia he has been fly fishing for trout for 20 years. His fishing often takes him to the trout streams of Pennsylvania, New York, and the Rocky Mountain West... even South Korea. His focus is on not only matching the appearance of the bugs that trout eat but also in matching the behavior of them. Allen's 2007 book, "Tying & Fishing Soft-Hackled Nymphs" was an introduction to these ideas. Since then he has been busy studying trout stream naturals and designing new flies and presentation methods. You can see Allen's blog, Riverfly Angler, at: <http://allenmcgee.blogspot.com/>.



Monthly Fly Challenge Rules Change



Bob Kern made the motion which was accepted unanimously at the last meeting that we change the way in which the monthly Fly Challenge is set up. The rationale for the rules change is to encourage more participation among our members while raising money for the chapter at our annual fundraiser.

As you know, we have been asking members to tie a fly for judging at the meeting each month based upon Bob's recommendations and fly tying materials provided. Those flies, along with others donated by Bob, were auctioned at this year's picnic and fundraiser. The winning bid was in excess of \$200.

The rules are now changed as follows:

1. Members are to tie two identical flies (for instance, two March Brown Flymphs).
2. One fly of the member's choice will be judged and placed in a wooden fly box.
3. The second fly will be placed in an identical wooden box.
4. One box will go to the chapter for auction at next year's picnic and fundraiser. The second box will be awarded to the tyer who has participated the most in the monthly Fly Challenge throughout the year.
5. Members can enter as many flies as they wish, but they all must be in two's. If we fill the two boxes, Bob has two more that we can work on.

We ask our "snowbird" members who travel back to Florida or other areas of the country each winter to participate in this judging, as well. Just because you are not able to attend the meeting doesn't mean you should be left out of the competition!



Fishing shirts are now in and will be distributed at the next meeting.

If anyone still needs to pay for his shirt, please bring the funds to the meeting.

Thanks to John and Joan Willis for sending this article from Southern Trout Magazine:

No Hatchery Closures for FY 2014

Posted on November 25, 2013



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has announced that it does not intend to close any of the nation's national fish hatcheries in the current fiscal year, but warned that closures may be necessary in FY 2015 given fiscal uncertainty and growing operations costs.

“In the coming months through the 2015 budget process, I have directed the USFWS to work with all of our partners to determine whether the options identified in the report, or others, are necessary and appropriate to put the system on a more sustainable financial footing,” says said USFWS Director Dan Ashe.

Director Ashe added that the agency intends to take immediate actions to prevent imminent closures, but noted that additional actions may be necessary to address long-term funding shortfalls.

“We are putting a Band-Aid on the hatchery system. Unless we can find a way to cover costs in a more sustainable fashion, the system will eventually need surgery,” said Ashe. “The challenges we are facing are not new; however, we have reached the point where – in the absence of long-term solutions, we will have no option but to make tough choices to bring expenses in line with actual revenues.”

National fish hatchery operations have been greatly impacted by sequestration, which reduced the NFHS budget, in the face of increasing operations costs. If sequestration continues into FY 2014, the Service will have lost close to \$6 million in appropriations for hatchery operations funding since FY 2012, while operations costs have continued to rise. In response, the Service in the fall of 2012 launched a comprehensive review of the 70 fish and aquatic species propagation hatcheries to ensure it will be positioned to address the highest priority aquatic resource needs now and into the future while working within its budget limitations

The “National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report” outlines the current propagation programs as well as problems associated with sustaining operation of the NFHS in its current configuration, and suggests possible changes to how the system could be managed under several different scenarios. The report identifies the NFHS's focus on five priorities for fish and aquatic species propagation which includes the recovery of species federally listed as threatened or endangered; restoration of imperiled aquatic species; tribal trust responsibilities; other propagation programs for native species; and other propagation programs for non-native species.

The Service will use the analysis to engage stakeholders in a discussion of the future of the NFHS. The Service is also working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration and Tennessee Valley Authority and has put in place agreements to provide reimbursable funds for the operational costs associated with mitigation fish production on streams and rivers impacted by federal water resources projects. Congress supported these steps, in recognition that the Service can no longer fund the production of fish for mitigation of federal water resources projects within its current budget.

The report can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2013/pdf/NFHSReviewCoverPageandReport.pdf>

Dream Tickets 2014

Again this year as in the past, our chapter will pay the Georgia TU Council the sum of \$1,000 for our allotment of 100 Dream Tickets to be sold for \$10.00 each. Everyone who attended our picnic and fundraiser paid for one (1) Dream Ticket at half price (\$5.00). We sold 57 tickets at the event and have an additional 43 tickets to sell (at half price) before the deadline. When we sell all 100 tickets, our chapter receives a \$500.00 rebate from the Georgia TU Council which means that the chapter breaks even financially.

The actual tickets will be given to us at the next quarterly council meeting in December. So, for now Frank Glowaski, our astute treasurer, is keeping a list of members' names who have paid for tickets.

Last year's winner and partner won the following:

July 29 - August 3, 2012 (negotiable)

Five days hosted fishing and six nights food and lodging at a private cabin in Island Park, ID near the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park.

A float trip on the Madison River.

A Winston 9 foot, 5 weight, 4 piece Boron III -x custom made fly rod.

A fly reel with Scientific Angler line.

A fly box and flies (approximately 5 to 7 dozen per box) for the trip.

\$500 in total travel expenses (this is total, not per person).

NOTE: Travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the winners. Fishing licenses, gratuities, and alcoholic beverages will be the responsibility of the winners during their stay.

