

Mending Lines

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January 2010

January

**20th
Regular Meeting**

Shoaff Park
American
Legion
Monday Night
Fly Tying starts
up again in Janu-
ary. Hope to see
everyone there

**February
16th
Regular Meeting**

Don's Den

By: Don Privett

On November 11 at 9 am we were putting the boat in the water on a small lake some sixty miles northwest of my house in Kendallville. We started moving around the shore and cast out from the brake into the deeper water with streamers. I was fishing a sink tip line and Kevin was using a floating line as we worked our way around the lake. We could see several bass and a few rainbow looking at the flies but we where not getting any takers. As noon approached we set the anchor and ate lunch we discus our next move and decided to go on around the lake and keep trying different streamer patterns. Next we moved back to where we had seen the most fish, around 3 pm and a few hundred feet from the boat ramp I had a rainbow chase the fly up from the deep. He turned on the fly but did not take it, I watched as the fish move off back to the deeper water. I recast the Moto Minnow about 10 foot from the fish and he turned back at the fly, but this time the outcome was different. He took the fly and the fight was on, after about five minuets I landed a 22 inch rainbow at 3 pm.

The moral of the story is don't give up if there are fish that you can see sooner or later you will get one to bite.

Dennis Potter will be here in January. I hope that you and your families had a very Happy Holiday season and will see you all soon.

Don



William Fitzgerald
By Jerry Drake

It is show season again. The winter fly-fishing show season starts with the FFF-GLC Fly Tying Expo in Holt Michigan. This was the eleventh show since the GLC started having the expo. This year was different. Oh yes, there were plenty of people tying flies. There were some vendors hawking their wares. There were just plain fly fishing enthusiasts checking up on the latest technique. But still this show was different. Somehow a little empty.

For the past two years I had company on the ride up to Holt. It was nice having someone to talk to, share a room with, and go to dinner with the night before the show. This year I went to the show alone. I go to most shows alone so it shouldn't be any different going to this show. But it was different.

Two years ago I heard that Bill Fitzgerald was thinking of not going to the Expo. Word had it that Bill was not looking forward to the drive up to the show and back. Bill had not missed a show since it had started and I thought he should not miss that one. I called Bill and told him he was more than welcome to ride with me and he would not have to worry about driving up to Holt by himself. Bill accepted.

The ride up seemed a lot shorter having Bill along to talk with. The ride home was just as pleasant. Last year Bill rode with me again. The ride home from the 2009 show was not so pleasant. About the time we got onto I69 going towards Fort Wayne it started to snow. The further down the road we got the slicker I69 got. We finally got behind a string of trucks that were moving 25 – 30 mph and followed them to the Indiana state line where the road was just wet. That was 2 ½ hours after getting on I69.

I first met Bill at the first general meeting of the Three Rivers fly fishers. We quickly became friends and remained so until Bill died. Two years after that meeting I was elected president of the Three Rivers Fly Fishers. I served in that position for eight years. Bill was on the board the whole time. Bill was still serving on the board at the time of his death. Serving others is what Bill done best.

The life of the Bill Fitzgerald I knew was all about service. Service to his country, service to his family, service to his church, and service to his friends and community. Bill especially served the youth of the community. One of the things Bill and I had in common was the Boy Scouts of America. Bill was an eagle scout. I was a scoutmaster for 25 years. As long as I knew Bill he always lived as an eagle scout. That is one of the things I admired about Bill.

Those of us that knew Bill have been blessed. As we go on with our lives we can take comfort in knowing that Bill Fitzgerald has touch our lives in a positive way. Rest in piece Bill.

William Fitzgerald 1923 – 2010

What Has The FFF Done For Me?

By Skip Hosfield

This is a question we often hear among club members when they are approached to join the Federation. I suppose it is an attitude to be expected in an age when fly fishing has expanded far beyond anything imagined by those of us who helped to found this international fraternity of fly fisher's. Speaking as one who served many years in membership development, at both the regional and national level, I shall try to provide a response to this question. Anyone who was not already a fly fisherman in 1965 when the FFF was founded cannot really know the nature of the world of fly fishing at that time. I have been a fly fisherman all my life. My father was a fly fisherman and I learned it from him, as most people did then. I moved to Oregon in 1958 and I never met another local fly fisherman until the McKenzie Flyfishers was started in 1964. There were obviously lots of them around, but they didn't advertise or proselytize. Unless one had a relative or friend who was a fly fisherman, chances are there was no opportunity to learn. Prior to the founding of the McKenzie Flyfishers there was only one fly fishing club in Oregon – the Flyfishers Club of Oregon. Unless you are a member of the Portland business or professional community you have little chance to enjoy the fellowship of other fly fisherman. Those of us who were fly fishing in 1964 were such a small part of the sport fishing world that we did not even exist in the eyes of those who made our laws and managed our angling resources. There were no magazines devoted to fly fishing. There were very few books written about fly fishing. You had to be living in a major city in order to have access to a fly fishing shop. If you were a fly tier, you were probably self-taught from basic instructions in one of the three or four fly fishing books in print at the time. And you had to order your materials from catalog descriptions. The really accomplished fly tiers were rare, and most of those were tying professionally full or part-time, and typically they jealously guarded their methods. Fly rods and tackle in general had changed very little for fifty years. After World War II fiberglass rods were being manufactured but that technology was in its infancy. The big tackle boom was in spinning rods and reels which originated in Europe. Fly fishing was such a small specialized market that it comprised a very small part of the production of the major fishing tackle manufacturers. All this began to change in 1965. The FFF was founded for the purpose of getting fly fishing clubs linked together in common purpose to promote fly fishing as a favored method of angling and to give fly fishermen a unified voice in the management of our angling resources. Its leaders adopted Lee Wulff's maxim that, "A good game fish is too valuable to be caught only once." The FFF waged the fight to establish the principle of catch-and-release. Another purpose of the FFF was to publish a magazine devoted entirely to fly fishing. No publisher was willing to risk a publishing venture on a market presumed to be so small. With the publication of *The Flyfisher* in 1968 we had the first magazine exclusively for fly fishing. After the FFF had shown what the potential market could become, commercial fly fishing magazines began to appear. When the McKenzie Flyfishers organized the original Conclave of Flyfishers in 1965 they established the paradigm for all FFF conclaves which have followed. It would be based on education, information sharing and outreach. It would finally shatter the shell of exclusivity which surrounded this sport in the public mind. The most famous and revered anglers in America would come to these annual gatherings and freely give their time and knowledge. The fly tying demonstrations at FFF conclaves soon attracted tiers from everywhere. Tiers which had been working in isolation for many years were soon coming into contact with one another and sharing methods and ideas. This initiated a fly tying renaissance which continues to this day. From the nucleus of a dozen or so clubs represented at the first conclave, FFF members have gone out and organized many hundreds of fly fishing clubs throughout the United States, Canada and many other countries throughout the world. The growth of FFF during the 1970s brought forth a corresponding growth in the fly tackle industry bringing an exponential increase in the availability and quality of fly fishing tackle of all description. This growth has been paralleled in the publishing industry which now churns out more magazines, books and videos than anyone could have imagined forty years ago. Anyone engaged in fly fishing today has benefited in many ways from what the FFF has done and continues to do. The availability of high quality and relatively inexpensive equipment in an astonishing range of choice would not be possible without the growth of the sport which the FFF has fostered. Your fly fishing club would most probably not exist if not for the FFF. The proliferation of fly fishing shows is mostly the result of FFF activity to promote the sport and extend knowledge. Anyone who has attended the Northwest Fly Tiers Expo has the FFF to thank for the experience. If you fish in Oregon, you can thank the FFF for the fact that efforts to eliminate all regulations restricting certain waters to fly fishing were defeated by the Oregon Council, FFF. If you enjoy the improved fishing on catch-and-release waters, you owe it to the FFF. The fact that fly fishing is now taken quite seriously by the ODFW is the result of efforts by members of the Oregon Council. In conclusion, when asked by someone what the FFF does for him, turn the question around and ask him what he is prepared to do to continue the work of those who have gone before him, and who created the improved climate for the sport he enjoys today. The very least one should do is to join the organization and thereby help to build a strong membership base which will enable the FFF to remain a strong force in conserving, restoring and educating through fly fishing.

The Club received a Thank You letter from Phyllis Fitzgerald it read as follows

Members Of The Three Rivers Fly Fishing Club

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement. Your expression of sympathy was much appreciated. Bill was proud to be a member of the club. He enjoyed attending meetings and being a Board Member. Many of you were his best friends. We hope the club continues to grow.

The Family of Bill Fitzgerald

A Message from Jeff Conrad

Thanks for inviting me up. I enjoyed meeting everyone. A very nice bunch of people. I should have said something last night, but if any of them would like to be added to my fishing report email blast, have them send me an email requesting inclusion in the list.

Regards, Jeff
jconrad@indy.rr.com

3RFF Classifieds

Used Minn Kota Trolling Motor Power Drive 40 Pound Thrust \$200 or best offer Contact Gary Sanders 260-251-1637

We also have all the club merchandise that we are trying to sell so please check out Gary Sanders at the next club meeting to get all of your 3RFF Merchandise!!

Other Upcoming EVENTS

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show 2011

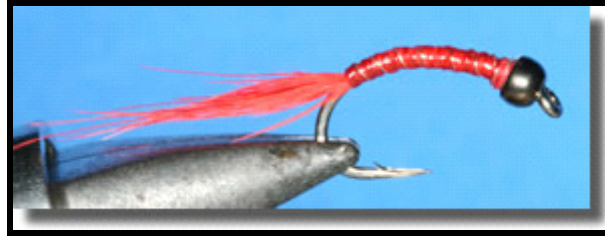
Everyone's invited Saturday February 5, 2011 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM

\$5.00 per person

Children 12 and Under and Scouts in Uniform are FREE as is Parking

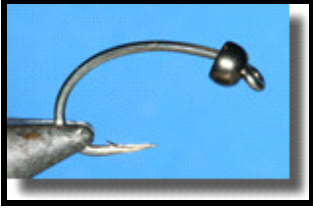
For more information please visit www.buckeyeflyfishers.com

The 3 Rivers Fly Fishers would like to express our condolences and deepest sympathy's to the Family of Jim Hensel as well as the Family of Bill Fitzgerald.

Bionic Worm**By: Bob Bates**

Hook: Daiichi Xpoint 120, sizes 10-14
Bead: Tungsten 7/64-1/8 inch Black, Silver
Thread: Uni, red 8/0
Tail: Marabou, red
Rib: Silver wire, fine or small
Over body: Scud Back, Red
Hackle: Medium ginger tied parachute; frequently substituted with "red" [brown].

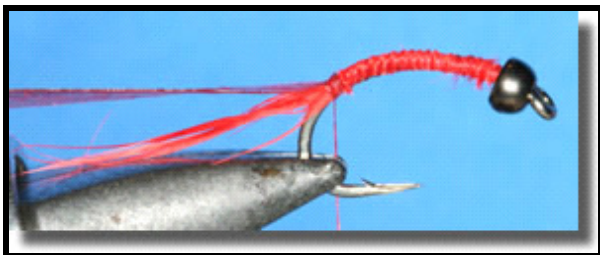
1. Put on bead. Smash the barb before tying the fly if you want to go barbless.



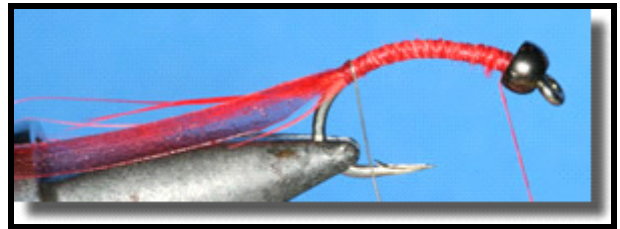
2. Start thread behind bead, and tie on marabou. Moisten fingers a little and rub marabou to control it and get a better idea of length desired.



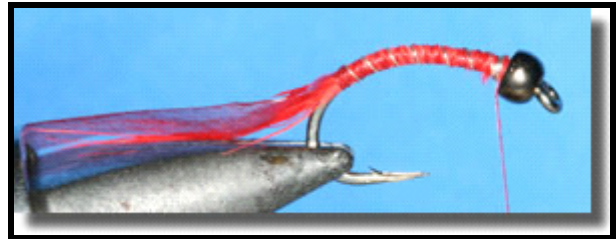
3. Wind thread over marabou toward rear of hook. Hold the marabou on top of the hook as you wind. Cut Scud Back on a sharp angle and tie it in at back of hook. Barely trap the point of the scud back so there is no bump.



4: Tie on silver wire rib at back of body and wind thread forward.



5: Spiral wire forward and build up a little at the bead



6: Wind Scud Back forward, overlap it just a little. This over wrap increases the fly's durability. Pull on the Scud Back as it is wrapped so the wire shows through. Be sure to pull on thread before you cut the excess Scud Back. If you don't it might unwrap on you. Whip finish and put on a little head cement on the thread.



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Calendar Of Events**January****20th
Regular Meeting**

Shoaff Park American
Legion

Monday Night Fly Tying starts up again in
January. Hope to see everyone there

February**16th
Regular Meeting****Bill's Favorite Print**

From the Bill Fitzgerald Estate

The Family of Bill Fitzgerald has given this print to the Three Rivers Fly Fishers for the club to raffle off. The money we receive from this raffle will go into our Education fund. We are selling 100 tickets at \$5 a piece and when all 100 tickets are sold we will draw the winner. You **MUST** not need to be present to win.

The Print is "Once Upon A Stream" by Beth Ward-Donahue.

It is framed, Signed and Numbered 97/500. This print was originally purchased from Jorgensons.



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PUBLISHER

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