



Ohio Fly Line



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Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the *Ohio Fly Line* Newsletter

By: Don Van Buren, President, OSC

The Ohio Fly Line is the official publication of the Ohio Sub Council (OSC) of the Great Lakes Council (GLC) of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF). That's a lot of acronyms describing the strong family tree supporting and encouraging the OSC's efforts in Ohio. Here's a little history on how we came to be the FFF/GLC Ohio Sub Council.

With the GLC representing all FFF members in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and a portion of Ontario, GLC was experiencing the challenges associated with providing and managing educational and conservation opportunities to support clubs from Thunder Bay, ON to Cincinnati, OH (that's 964 miles if you're wondering). This had become daunting for a small network of volunteers that were mostly from Michigan and who were already supporting a growing list of projects just in Michigan. This left few resources to encourage and support clubs in the other states, particularly the membership in Ohio.

So the seven FFF Clubs at that time in Ohio met over a six month period in 2003 to study the feasibility of representing fly fishers in Ohio with representatives from the Ohio FFF Clubs, and with the goal of someday becoming a full FFF Council for Ohio. Everyone agreed it was the right thing to do, so we petitioned to become a Sub Council under GLC (a full Council requires ten clubs). At the recommendation of FFF/GLC President James Schramm on October 18, 2003, the GLC Board of Directors unanimously approved the Ohio petition, along with the Officers and Directors from the following organizations to lead the OSC: President, Don Van Buren (President, North Coast Fly Fishers & GLC Director); Vice President, Michael Bryant (President, Buckeye United Fly Fishers); Secretary, Jim Stone (Vice President, Mohican Fly Fishers); Treasurer, Steve Rose (President, Mohican Fly Fishers); and Communications Director Joseph Valencic (Communications Director, North Coast Fly Fishers). Bryant, Stone, Rose & Valencic were added to the FFF/GLC Board of Directors as

Directors, and Rose was also added as Assistant Treasurer, FFF/GLC. This further strengthened the Ohio representation on the GLC Board.

So that's how we came to be the voice for Ohio FFF Clubs and for all anglers who fish with the artificial fly. The OSC's initial focus will be to strengthen the existing FFF member clubs through collaboration, educational opportunities and improved communication on issues directly affecting Ohio fly fishers. The OSC will work towards meeting the FFF's goal to be the voice for organized fly fishing by establishing and maintaining liaison with other organizations of anglers, conservationists and government agencies concerned with the sport of angling. For now, this issue will introduce you to the FFF Clubs in Ohio.



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L-R: Joe Valencic, Steve Rose, Jim Schramm, Jim Stone, Mike Bryant & Don Van Buren

Ohio Sub Council Mission Statement

The purpose of the Ohio Sub Council is the establishment of a full council to the Federation of Fly Fishers , representing the FFF associated Clubs of Ohio and adjacent states. We will strive to meet this objective by:

- Creating an atmosphere that encourages education, conservation and the enjoyment of fly-fishing and fly tying.
- Developing practical goals supporting education, conservation and the enjoyment of fly-fishing and fly tying.
- Freely sharing information and knowledge as it involves fly-fishing and fly tying.
- Encouraging and promoting communications with Fly Fishers and Fly Fishing Clubs.
- Cultivating, encouraging and teaching sound conservation practices that preserve and improve our environment and water resources.
- Educating as many people as we can to the joys and delights of fly-fishing and fly tying.
- Maintaining a current informational base on issues, concerns and practices as they pertain to fly-fishing and fly tying for the OSC area.
- Supporting the goals and objectives of FFF.

Member Clubs of the Ohio Sub Council

(In alphabetical order)

If you are looking to join a FFF Club, check out one of these fine clubs near you. If you would like to start a new FFF Club, Contact Joe Valencic at ClubInfo@ohiofff.org for details and assistance.

Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio

Website: www.buckeyeflyfishers.com

The Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc is a fly fishing club located in Cincinnati, Ohio. We are an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Our goal is to provide fly fishing information on fly tying, fly fishing trips, and fly fishing news for the beginner and veteran fly fisher. Our mission is to assist in the protection and improvement of our natural resources through promoting the sport of fly fishing. BUFF is a member of the Great Lakes Council of the FFF and is one of the seven charter members of the new Ohio Sub-Council of the GLC.

Clear Fork Fly Fishers, Loudonville, Ohio

Vernon Bewely, President

E-Mail: Vernon@hillsshepherd.com

The Clear Fork Fly Fishers began with a meeting promoted by Walt Dutka, an outdoor writer, at a local restaurant in Loudonville Ohio in 1994. With a promising turnout, the club was born, and elected their John Good as the first president.

The Clear Fork Fly Fishers remains a small, but close knit club, meeting monthly (second Wednesday of the month, Sept. through May, at 7:00pm) at the Loudonville library. The Clear Fork Fly Fishers aid in river cleanups and stockings on the Clear Fork, promote fly fishing and conservation through youth and adult educational activities and participate in fly tying exhibitions. The meetings are informal and usually the members come together to tie flies, share stories and in general have a good time. A Christmas party is held each year where the members and their families come together to celebrate the season and friendships.

Firelands Fly Fishers, Avon, Ohio

Website: www.firelandsflyfishers.org

The Firelands Fly Fishers is a group of fly fishers consisting of all skill levels and experience. Our goal is to educate members on all aspects of fly fishing including fly casting, fly tying and conservation. We are a Charter Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers formed in November 2003. The Firelands Fly Fishers are located in Avon, Ohio, which is on the far west side of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Firelands Fly Fishers meet from 6:30 to 9:30 PM on the second Wednesday of every month (September - June) at The French Creek Nature Center which is located at 4530 Colorado Ave. in Sheffield Village. Visit our website for more information and to view our online newsletter.

Miami Valley Fly Fishers, Dayton, Ohio

Website: www.mvff.us

Miami Valley Fly Fishers Inc., established in 1975, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement and preservation of fly fishing in Ohio. Our goal is cleaner water and brighter streams.

Mohican Fly Fishers, Mansfield, Ohio

Website: members.aol.com/flytie111/mohican/mohican.htm

We are an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers through the Ohio Sub-Council of the FFF's Great Lakes Council. We provide a political voice for fly fishers and act unilaterally, or in conjunction with other conservation organizations, including the ODNR, to protect, promote and improve the Mohican Valley Fishery and elsewhere. We promote adherence of Ohio's Fishing Regulations, Club Rules, and sound conservation principles and ethics. We try to establish good relationships with landowners along the waterways through the positive actions of our club's members and activities.

North Branch Boys, Toledo, Ohio

E-Mail: NBB@glennriver.com

North Branch Boys is a Federation of Fly Fishers affiliated club. The club typically meets the second Wednesday of each month from September through March- concluding with a very special annual banquet in March. Meetings are held at the Toledo Sailing Club in Walbridge Park across from the Toledo Zoo. Our meetings start with social and dinner hour starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by our main presentation at 7:30p.m.. Our club is for men and women who love the outdoors, enjoy fishing, especially fly fishing, and just like to get together for recreational and social purposes.

North Coast Fly Fishers, Kirtland, Ohio

Website: www.ncff.net

NCCFF is a 100% FFF Club whose purpose is to promote fly-fishing as the most enjoyable and sporting method of fishing. We are committed to providing education in the best practices and techniques of the sport, including fly tying, fly casting and fish and water conservation. Our members are committed to maintaining a current membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers. Visit our website for details on meetings & events.

Western Reserve Fly Anglers, Ravenna, Ohio

Ed Waldo, President

E-Mail: ehwaldo@aol.com

Western Reserve Fly Anglers is an Affiliate Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers.
