

# New England Fly Tyers



NEWS LETTER

## President's Message

The New England Fly Tyers are moving toward the second part of the clubs year with a good first half of activity at the club. All of the following functions and activities where a big success starting with our Hot Dog Opening Night, Favorite Fly Night, Pot Luck Supper, Pasta and Meatball night to include our member Dan Spedding who gave another outstanding presentation about his fly fishing trip to the state of Montana. I would like to thank all of our members who participated in these programs and those who help put them together with the set up and take down of them.

The two recent fishing shows that we participated in have helped with the selling of raffle tickets which will subsidize the cost of supporting the Youth Outreach Program. Along with that we were able to meet people who are looking to join a fly tying club and people who wanted to take either the Fly Tying course or the Rod Building Course along with children that may seem interested in taking the Youth Outreach programs this coming year. I especially would like to thank all those members who gave up time to work the both Fishing Show. Our Open House is Monday Jan-

uary 30, 2017 where we will have a table of pizza and deserts set up with coffee and cold drinks and if members want to bring something for the table it will be more than welcome as in past events. We will have a table set up for students who are taking the fly tying class to either watch an instructor tying a fly or tie a basic fly with our instructors, I would like all of our members that night to wear their NEFT badges and introduce yourself to new members or a students who will be taking one of our classes. We will also have a table set up for the rod building course showing materials and equipment needed and to answer any question that a student made have.

We will have a meeting on February 20, 2017 starting at 6:30 to discuss what is needed for our Annual Banquet that will be held at the clubs hall on April 20, 2017 and to assign members with a task for that night, don't forget this cannot be a successful event without the help of our membership so please step forward and help out.

There will be a questionnaire sent out to all NEFT members with your renewal of membership form. I ask that you read it and make a point to answer the questions on this form and either mail it back or bring it to the club on Mon-

day night so we can help gear our educational events and outdoor activities towards your needs or desires.

I have discussed with one of our board member a way to incorporate more fishing events during the calendar year such as salt water fishing, fresh water fishing the Farmington river, Quinapoxet river, swift river, Housatonic river maybe a day trip to New Hampshire or Maine. We have also discussed perhaps joining another fly fishing club at an outdoor fishing event that they may be putting on and are pleased to have us join them for the day or night. If you are interested to help in forming a committee come see me or Curt Rudge as again we need to act as a team to accomplish some of these goals.

One final note, if you are staying overnight at our Deerfield River Outing which is the weekend of June 2-4, 2017 do not wait until May to book a motel room for this event, this is the time to book your reservations for this outing.

Hope to see more members at our meeting in the upcoming months.

Tight lines

Joe Simone

NEFT President

February 2017

## NEFT Calendar

### February 6

7:00pm Open Tying  
Board of Director's meeting

### February 13

7:00pm  
Open Tying  
Adult Fly Tying Course Begins

### February 20

Open Tying  
Banquet Meeting

### February 27

7:00 Open House  
Favorite Fly

## Events to plan for:

### March 6<sup>th</sup>

Open Tying  
Rod Building Class Begins

### March 11<sup>th</sup>

Youth Outreach Begins

### March 13<sup>th</sup>

Open Tying  
Board of Director's Meeting

### March 20<sup>h</sup>

Pot Luck Supper

### April 28<sup>and</sup>

Banquet

### May 1<sup>and</sup>

Board of Director's Meeting

### May 13<sup>h</sup>

Club Outing

### May 22<sup>rd</sup>

Business Meeting (Last Meeting of the Year)

### June 3

Deerfield Outing

# New England Fly Tyers

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## Youth Outreach Program: Tom Foley, Instructor



The NEFT Youth Outreach Program is a 7 week program designed to provide students with enough instruction and equipment to allow graduates to confidently go afield and successfully fly fish. The Program begins on March 11 and ends on April 22. The classes are 3 hours each Saturday at the Leicester

Rod and Gun Club and is open to students 10 to 17 years of age. The first 3 weeks are dedicated to learning how to tie flies. The lessons include materials, recipes of flies, how to use the tools and materials all from a course booklet and DVD instructions. The next four weeks focus on Entomology, Fly

Casting and finally fishing with a fly you made to catch a fish. All fly tying kits, rods, reels and tying materials are supplied to students free of charge to students that have completed course. The course is designed to give students a lifetime of fly fishing pleasures.

## Rod Building Class: Paul Breau, Instructor



The NEFT rod building course aim is to provide an enjoyable and informative opportunity for students to learn the basics of rod building, starting with the blank, rod seat, guide placing and wrapping. At our open house Dan Heglin and I will be there to answer any questions that you may

have and in addition to your questions you will be given an outline of what rod building components and material will be needed and where to shop for them before we start the course. Students learn how to find the spline of the rod, install the reel seat and grip, guide placement, wrapping guides and

final coating of your wraps. The second week moves on to guide placement and wrapping and the opportunity for each student to have the opportunity to take home the rod building bench to complete or work on guide wrapping. Each student has the opportunity to work with an instructor through any problems

## Fly Tying Lessons: Jim McKenney



The NEFT's showcase instructive component is it's Fly Tying Lessons lead by Master Fly Tyer Jim McKenney supported by additional members and an excellent instructional video narrated by Lifetime Member Dean Clark. The

lessons run from February 13 to April 17 and are on Monday evenings at the Singletary Rod and Gun Club in Oxford, MA. The course includes a copy of the New England Fly Tyers Manual of Fly Tying. All the materials for the course

will be supplied for each lesson at the club. The progression of flies taught is designed to build new skills each week which by completion of the course provides students with the basic skills needed to tie most patterns of flies.

# WHY THE NEW ENGLAND FLY TYERS?

Our last issue focused on our New England winters and how many of us fly fishermen opt to while away the time as we wait for the snow and ice to melt so we can head to our favorite waters and cast the first fly. This month, fresh off our primary recruitment period, I thought it would be great to examine what both new and longtime members can experience as NEFT members, but perhaps present it in a different way.

Whether you are new to fly fishing or an old hand at it looking for perhaps a different experience, it almost always starts with identifying the fish you are looking to catch. Once you've determined what you want to go after, you need to make sure you've got the equipment needed. A beautiful 3 or 4 weight probably isn't what you're going to need if you're going after Large Mouth or Striped Bass whereas a 10 weight just won't let you appreciate a nice 10 inch brookie.

Once you've honed in on the proper equipment you'll need, you might want to examine if building a new rod is for you or purchasing a new one better fits your style. What action and length best suits your style and skill level and then matching them up with a line and reel for the best price should be included in your agenda.

Once you've figured all that out, now comes the daunting process of determining what flies you're going to need to attract the chosen prey. And then putting together the list of hooks and materials to tie them and where to get it is probably going to dominate a little more time.

Isn't this fun?

Ok, so now we know what we're going after, what equipment we're going to need to go after them with, what flies we're going to need to tie for them, and where we're going to get it. So, where exactly are we going to go and find these fish we've spent the winter preparing for so we can at least have some chance of success? Will it be fresh water or salt water? Rivers, streams, small brooks, bays, estuaries, lakes, ponds, shore lines or from a boat? Will this be something you can pursue locally, or is there a trip in our future?

So much to think about but it's probably all available on YouTube. Thank goodness for the internet and the multitudes of folks willing to share what they know. But what if you try and don't succeed? Who will you ask? Can YouTube watch your cast and help critique your mistakes? Can they watch your tying techniques and sug-

gest some subtle changes or offer alternatives? Probably not, however, as a NEFT member, you have access to fellow fly fishermen who have first hand experience with almost every type of fly fishing, folks who know what equipment is best to use, what flies to tie and the best places to make any necessary purchases. If you choose, they'll help you build your new rod, show you how to tie those new flies and make sure you're as prepared as possible before you make your first foray into this new territory. And if you're willing to listen to a few fish stories and a little bit of braggadocio, they'll probably even share a few of their favorite secret spots for you to get started.

And once you've spent some time at it and caught your share of fish, next winter you can pick a new target and start the cycle all over again.





## ***To Promote Fly Fishing and Tying***

Our mailing address is:  
PO Box 164  
Worcester, MA 01613

The NEFT meets every Monday evening at 7 PM from the Monday after Labor Day to the Monday before Memorial day. We meet at the Singletary Rod & Gun , 300 Sutton Ave., Oxford Ma.

*NEFT is a non-profit organization of fly fishers and fly tyers. The purpose of the organization is to foster the art of fly tying, to promote the challenge of fly fishing, to encourage conservation and sportsmanship.*

*NEFT began in Worcester, MA in 1972. Our current membership comes from over 50 cities and towns in Worcester County. We believe that the NEFT is one of the most active clubs of its kind. We meet every Monday night from the Monday after Labor Day to the Monday before Memorial day, a total of 36 meetings in 9 months.*

### **We're on the Web**

**[www.newenglandflytyers.org](http://www.newenglandflytyers.org)**

# New England Fly Tyers

## Membership Renewal Form

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member: \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Junior Member: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Life Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

Paid by Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Contact Update:

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Questionnaire:

Please Print all Information so it is legible

\_\_\_ In an effort to keep NEFT activities current with the interest of membership, please take a minute to fill out the following questionnaire:

What species of fish do you primary fish for? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of flies do you most often tie? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you travel to fish and if so where? \_\_\_\_\_

What's your Favorite Fly Shop? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your Favorite Style of Fishing? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to share your fly fishing knowledge with other members of the  
New England Fly Tyers: \_\_\_\_\_

What fly fishing or fly tying experience would you like to try that you have not yet to experience or  
learn: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO SHARE:

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As you all know, a club is only as strong as its membership. Please check off any of the following volunteer activities you might be willing to assist in:

Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_ Club Greeter at Activities \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite Fly \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Fly setup and take down \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Set Up or Take Down \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Outreach Program \_\_\_\_\_

Monday Night Setup or Take Down \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee Setup and Take Down \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Contributor \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO US AT OUR MONDAY NIGHT MEETING OR MAIL IT TO THE FOLLOWING CLUB ADDRESS.**

NEFT  
P.O. BOX 165  
WORCESTER, MA 01613