

New England Fly Tyers



NEWS LETTER NEW MEMBERSHIP EDITION

February 2018

President's Message

I'm always amazed at how many people complain about January, February and March and how they hate the cold and snow and feel like they are locked inside waiting for spring to happen. At least for NEFT members, that couldn't be further from the truth. Once the holidays are over, January brings outdoor shows where we can go and wander through exhibits of exotic destinations and guide services, pick up those materials we need to replace the flies we lost last year and attend seminars of places we'd love to visit and perhaps even book a trip or two.

For NEFT club members, we're entering the busiest portion of our season with great events scheduled for every month until we wrap it all up in June. This season starts with manning the club booth at the Marlboro and Berlin shows which are our best recruiting opportunities for new members.

As a direct result of everyone's efforts at the shows

we slide right into our open house the first meeting in February. I can't overemphasize how important everyone's input is on this particular night. Sitting down, tying some flies and demonstrating your skills is such an influence on the potential new members that join us that evening. However, just as important if not more so is everyone's willingness to shake a hand, introduce yourself and start a conversation with all the new faces. Personal contact and recognition is so important in welcoming new members.

The very next week is a deep dive into Adult Fly Tying Lessons and Rod Building Classes. The hall is always abuzz with activity with all the things members join for. By the time we get into March, we've got fly tying, rod building and our youth outreach in full swing. This is what we're all about and it's a great time to be a member.

I want to take a moment

to note the passing of Charter Member Ken Hull. I know there is a Broken Tippet in this news letter reflecting on Ken's service but I'd like to make a personal comment on what Ken meant to me, and I'm sure presidents of the past. Ken was a rock of support, a bit of a sage passing along sound advice when needed, and just someone you could depend on when you needed someone to turn to. We'll miss you Ken.

Finally, I'd just like to remind everyone that February is Membership Renewal Month. Attached to this newsletter is the renewal application, so, lets get it filled out and either mail it along with your check to:

NEFT
P.O. BOX 165
WORCESTER, MA
01613, or bring it to a meeting and give it to either Paul Breau or me.

Tight lines,

Joe Simone
President

NEFT Calendar

February 5 Open House, Open Tying

February 12 Open Tying, Fly Tying Lessons, Rod Building Lessons

February 19 Open Tying, Fly Tying Lessons, Rod Building

February 26 Open Tying, Fly Tying Lessons, Rod Building Lessons, Favorite Fly

Events to plan for:

March 5 Hot Dog Night

March 24 Pot Luck Supper

May 12 Club Outing

May 21 Business Meeting

April 27 Annual Banquet

June 2 Deerfield Outing

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NEFT Membership Assets



Each year members of the New England Fly Tyers man a booth at the local fly fishing and outdoor sportsmen's shows to promote the organization and encourage new membership. The shows offer access to thousands of fishermen and provides NEFT with an opportunity to demonstrate the art and spirit of fly tying and fly fishing, open an avenue for experienced fly fishers and fly tyers to join others with like interests and to give neophytes who have always wanted to get into the sport but didn't know where to begin. And once the message is delivered to those folks that have interest, we host an open house for a more direct immersion into the world of fly tying and benefits of belonging to our organization. And for those who may not know, here are a few of the benefits membership brings.

Weekly Venue for Tying and Learning—The NEFT meets every Monday evening from 7 to 9 pm starting the week after Labor Day through the last week of May. Through out the year members have an opportunity to attend monthly favorite fly sessions, pot

luck suppers, an annual pasta dinner, business meetings and an opportunity to tie flies each week.

Access to Experience and Tips—The NEFT offers numerous opportunities for fly fishermen, especially those with limited experience, to access a reservoir of skilled fly fishermen and tyers with literally thousands of hours on the water and at the vice. There are members who know where to fish, what techniques to use, what flies to use and how to tie them. There are also numerous opportunities to join them on the water for a first hand experience.

Favorite Fly Nights—Once a month a member volunteers to demonstrate tying a favorite fly that the member uses consistently with success. On favorite fly night the guest tyer is set up at a table in a section of the meeting hall just for those members wishing to watch and learn a new pattern. A camera is connected to a large screen TV and provides a live video of the pattern being tied for everyone to see. This is a unique opportunity to gain access to

proven successful flies and the techniques necessary to tie them.

Social Activities—Although fly tying and fly fishing are the central focus of the club, social events are scattered through out the year providing ample opportunity to get to know fellow tyers a little better and swap the latest stories, tips and good ties. Probably the most popular Monday night social activities are hot dog nights, pot luck suppers and most popular of all is the annual pasta dinner in December. Although fishermen or fisherwomen never need an excuse to share tales, these events certainly bring out the best.

Fly Tying Lessons—Undoubtedly the flag ship program offered by the NEFT is the fly tying classes offered each year beginning in February. Lead instructor Jim McKenney supported by other veteran member tyers and a professional instructional video, provide outstanding instruction for beginners and anyone wishing to hone their skills. Materials are supplied and there are a limited number of tools available for those who

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Membership Assets Continued

Haven't purchased theirs yet.

Rod Building Classes—In recent years the club has added an additional hands on learning opportunity with its rod building class. Starting in February, members have an opportunity to purchase the components to build a rod and come to meetings and be guided through the process of assembly with equipment provided. By spring those who participate will be headed out to streams and pond with flies they have tied cast with rods they have built with a satisfaction known to only a few.

Youth Outreach Program—Part of the mission of the NEFT is to perpetuate the sport of fly fishing and to that end proudly offer to youngsters from 10 to 17 an opportunity to learn fly tying, casting, aquatic entomology, and on-the-water skills. Participants receive fly tying kits and a

complete Orvis fly fishing outfit including rod, reel, and line. The season ends with a fishing outing and a grand barbeque for the staff, kids, and parents.

Annual Banquet—April is a special time of the year for club members as the ice is melting, trout are being stocked, the first stripers are showing up on the cape and the annual banquet occurs. It's a great evening with a centerpiece of a great meal surrounded and supported by an expansive raffle, live auction and a guest speaker who will focus on some aspect of fly tying or fishing.

Field Trips—Tie all the flies you want, build all the rods you'd like, it doesn't all come together until you get to the water and put them to good use and the NEFT doesn't come up short here either. This year on May 12 the club will once again host its annual outing at Douglas State Forest in Douglas

Mass. This is a family outing on the shores of Wallum Lake when members and their families can come together for some great fishing, enjoy the park and have lunch (usually hot dogs and burgers, etc.). And then, less than a month later is the annual Deerfield River trip. On June 2 the NEFT will once again assemble on the shores of the Deerfield river for a day of fishing and a delicious steak dinner. There is an expanding group of members who make a weekend of it and if you check around between now and June you can definitely be a part of the expanded activities.

There are undoubtedly more advantages than are mentioned here for any fly fishermen or tyers to become members of the New England Fly Tyers, but rather than sit around thinking about it, just come on down on February 5 and see for yourself.



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Broken Tippets: Ken Hull



It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of NEFT charter member Ken Hull. Ken had been a member of the NEFT since its inception in 1972 and his tenure is the definition of dedication and service. As a club member Ken had held the positions of secretary, treasurer, vice president, served as a board member for 18 years, began the

funding for the Barre Falls Outing (now held at Douglas State Park), ran the fly fishing shows at the Worcester Sportsmen's Shows, started the open house raffles, ran the "Rod Raffle" for the youth outreach program and for a time was an instructor for that program. Ken was a U. S. Army Veteran and ran veterans services in Worcester County for

years. Ken leaves his loving wife Judith, daughter Deborah Brown, son Timothy Hull and numerous additional family members.

Ken set the example for all of us to aspire to through his contribution and dedication to the NEFT. His smiling welcome to all who entered the hall on Monday nights will truly be missed. Tight Lines, Ken.



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

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:

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