Welcome to the April 2010 issue of the ClubWire e-mail news service for clubs.

- **FFF Member e-newsletter –**
If your not getting our monthly FFF Member e-newsletter and would like to. It’s easy to sign up. Go to [http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001oqwWjY62mfmliHsoPjzZRg%3D%3D](http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001oqwWjY62mfmliHsoPjzZRg%3D%3D) and just enter the e-mail address you would like it to be sent to.

- **National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave – Education, Inspiration, Celebration –**
The 2010 National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave – EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION - [West Yellowstone Montana](http://www.flyfish.org) here we come! Planning is on track and you can expect to get the best Fly Fishing Fair the FFF and West Yellowstone has offered yet. Some special activities going on will include a 1 ½ day [women’s program](http://www.flyfish.org) on August 26 & 27 with some outstanding instructors at the spectacular [Bar-N-Ranch](http://www.bar-n-ranch.com) and we have a one day [youth camp](http://www.flyfish.org) scheduled for Saturday August 28.

Fly Fishing Fair Registration will open May 24, 2010 at 9am MST. Check the [website](http://www.flyfish.org) for information on workshops which will be posted by the end of April for review. See our website for all other activity information and be sure to check back often for the most up to date information.

Last call for the [Bamboo Rod Building Workshop](http://www.flyfish.org) if you are interested please contact the FFF office to get your name on the list. To have the class we must get 8-10 students to participate and so far we have 5. A decision will be made by May 15th. Contact the FFF office to sign up.

Don’t forget to plan to attend the live [auction](http://www.flyfish.org) on Friday August 27. We will have a preview from 6:00-7:30 with great appetizers, a cash bar along with a raffle drawing and some silent auction items. To attend the preview, purchase your ticket for $15.00 when you register or get your ticket on-site at the show on the 24 or 25. There is no fee to attend the live auction so just show up at 7:30 sharp to bid on great fly fishing trips, beautiful fly plates, flies, and exceptional art to the finest gear we are sure to have items for everyone who pursues a fly fishing lifestyle.

The 2010 Fly Fishing Fair will be a great opportunity for fun, fishing, and learning together come celebrate with us - don’t miss it!

- **And The Winners Are –**
The Five Rivers Sweeptakes winners are: Ed Kehoe, J. Markey, Leon Cuccia, Don Sawyer, Fred Schmitz, James Greene, Patricia Holtan, Mike Sebetich, Patrick Duffy, Bobby White, Michael Burns, Tim Johnson, Glenn Short, Bill Papesh, Western Rocky Mtn. Council, Walter Wilhelm, and Mary Ann von Roth. Glenn Short takes the Grand Prize! Thanks to everyone who participated in the sweepstakes!

- **Tying Video Of The Month – Whisper Shrimp –**
Reel Action Media and The Weekly Fly have been filming tying videos at the FFF library in Livingston. The first four videos were filmed in December and many more are scheduled. View the [monthly video here](http://www.flyfish.org). To learn more about the Weekly Fly click here.
Bug Water by Arlen Thomason
Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA 2010
211 pages, hardbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price $39.95

This is one of the most interesting and fun to read books on aquatic entomology as it pertains to fly fishermen. The book is directed largely to the "bugs" most commonly imitated by fly fishers in the Northwestern states. However the information, on the science and of the actual observations of the author, about these insects is the same worldwide. And it is this information that is so beautifully presented on several levels. The text is easy and fun to read presenting both science and story in a conversational manner that encourages the reader to continue. The photographs are simply stunning. There are very few published photographs of aquatic insects as well done as these and even fewer that show the insects going about the business of being bugs. In addition there are absolutely lovely photographs of rivers and Stillwater that will evoke pleasurable memories in every fly fisherman. The illustrations by William Marshall are stunning and compliment the book extremely well. The suitable fly patterns included are also beautifully photographed and/or illustrated. There are a few glitches, such as for example, calling an after-shaft feather a filoplume but they do not detract in any significant manner from the importance of this volume. The editing and production of this book and its photographs and illustrations is excellent. Clearly this is required reading for every trout fly fisherman and naturalist.

Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple II by Skip Morris
Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR, 2009
151 pages, spiral softbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price $24.95

This is a second installment of the author's very popular beginner fly tying instruction book. This second volume presents eighteen patterns of four types; nymphs, streamers/wet flies, emergers, and dry flies. The particular patterns are selected to illustrate particular tying techniques and the use of particular materials. These include the use of glass beads, CDC feathers, Klinkhamer style emergers, and epoxy covered wing cases for example. The writing is clear and easy to read. And the author not only provides the tying information and materials information but also a hints section for each procedure or material to help with the most common problems encountered by the tyer of the particular pattern. The text is illustrated with top quality color photographs of the tying steps, the finished flies, as well as fishing scenes. There are also a number of very well done color illustrations showing procedures that are difficult to illustrate with photographs alone. While none of the patterns or associated procedures is especially new, they are all very important to have a mastery of for the trout fly tyer. However, the tying step photographs are very small in size for a book of this format size. And they are located around the edges of the pages more on the order of margin notes. This may make using them at the tying bench a bit difficult. It is also disappointing to see the instruction for tying a Klinkhamer style emerger does not teach the Klinkhamer style of parachute hackle mounting which is the most important and innovative part of this style of fly. Overall the author presents a very good fly tying course in the commercial fly tyer style of tying. While there is nothing new the material presented does represent some of the most popular fly patterns and current styles of tying.

Creative Salmon Fly Art, Vol. 1 by Paul Rossman
Pine Meadow Publishing, Pine Meadow, CT 2010
91 pages in PDF format on CD, suggested price $24.95

This is the first volume of a proposed ten volume set of books directed to Salmon flies as art. This series will first be published as PDF format books on CD, and in the future as traditional printed volumes. The quality of the production is excellent. The writing is lovely in both thought and form. The overall structure of the book is to select a small set of birds that provide feathers of interest to the Salmon fly tyer and provide a history of these birds, reproductions of early naturalist images, and a fly designed to highlight the feathers of a single bird of the group in an artistic manner. Many of the superbly reproduced early images are very difficult to find making these reproductions of originals a valuable resource. The author not only presents each fly and the components and recipe, but also his design philosophy. Being able, as a reader, to see into the mind of the artist provides the reader with many new ideas and directions for his own fly tying and fly designing. This first volume is one of three volumes covering the pheasants. Here the tragopan, peacock, and jungle fowl pheasants are presented. In total fifteen different species of these pheasants and fifteen beautifully
designed and executed Salmon flies are presented. Whether you tie Salmon flies or not, if you have a love of tying, nature, or art you will find this electronic book a most pleasurable treasure.

**Casting Tip for TBFFC: 5**  
By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

The casting arc, the V-shaped angle between the rod butt in the start position and the stop position of a cast, must vary with the length of line past the rod tip. This is our next Essential. The more line you extend past the rod tip, the more weight available to bend, or load the rod. In order to maintain a Straight Line Path of the Rod Tip, a short line requires a short stroke and a long line a long stroke. It is easy to demonstrate this by starting false casting, casting without allowing the line or fly to touch the ground, with a few feet of line outside the rod tip. Pinch the line under your grip on the rod’s cork. As you cast, extend a few more feet of line and maintain a straight line path with the rod tip, while you increase size of the casting arc. You should be able to maintain a nice tight loop during this exercise.

**A Useful Chemical You Should Have**  
By Dick Miekka – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

By now, you have probably received more than one E-mail describing the many uses of WD-40, Hydrogen Peroxide, and other household chemicals. Well, here is another one that may be new to you.

My magic chemical of the month is Sodium Silicate solution, most conveniently purchased as a spray bottle under the title of Bleche-Wite, sold as a tire cleaner for whitewalls and blackwalls.

The utility of this mildly caustic aqueous solution lies in its ability to clean degraded and oxidized rubber and plastic from the surfaces of many items (especially ones that are black in color) besides tires. Here are a few suggestions:

Spray the solution onto your failing windshield wiper blade, let stand a minute or so, and then wipe it off with a clean cloth. Most blades will perform like new, but the treatment won’t last as long as a new blade. Use the cloth to catch the blade runoff onto the windshield before the final wipedown.

The rubber or plastic handles of many tools (hammers, screwdrivers, power tools) as well as the steering wheel of your boat may become tacky to the touch as it ages and oxidizes. Spray the gooey item with the silicate solution, rub with a moist cloth, then rinse and dry. The tackiness will be gone!

**Fly Tyers Bench – Salmon / Trout Egg’s**  
By Gene Rea – Taken from the Pikes Peak Fishers Newsletter

I was recently asked what favorite pattern I would use to go after spawning fish. Good question, and several years ago I definitely wouldn’t have included egg patterns because I was of the puritanical mind-set that they were nothing more than using “over glorified bait”. I was wrong! I have since come to appreciate the value and importance of egg patterns over the last several years and now include them on any foray after spawning fish…you would be foolish to omit them as well.

With the spring season upon us, many changes in the environment have begun to take place, especially in our local rivers and streams. Subtle cues such as water temperature, level and clarity trigger a massive migration of fish to start running up the streams where they were born to repeat the spawning process. It is this spawning process and the returning fish that are of importance to the educated fly angler, seeing as some of the best fishing can come during this time of year. Not just any type of fishing works during this spring run of fish…and we’re talking Rainbows, Cutthroat and Cutt-bows.

The lake-run trout and the river residents have a particular interest in eating fresh eggs from their brethren. Presenting egg flies to fish that have ventured up into the rivers can provide a very exciting day of fishing. It might seem so simple but the truth is natural eggs that come from spawning fish make up a more than substantial percentage of the seasonal food base in streams for foraging trout species. Pre-spawn fish are able to set themselves in a downstream position from other spawning fish and forage aggressively on eggs that happen to wash out or be knocked out of the spawning beds. These eggs contain many of the basic nutrients for sustaining life, such as high amounts of protein and carbohydrates.
that will help to fatten fish quickly.

Egg fishing for trout may sound relatively simple but be warned; you should expect to lose large number of flies due to snagging up on the river bottom or foul-hooking fish. Often the best presentation requires getting your fly right in the thick of things meaning bouncing off the bottom all the way down the river for long stretches. It can be very frustrating to the beginning fly angler trying to decipher between the current and rocks pulling on your fly and the soft strike of a weary fish.

If you always keep in mind the golden rule that the indicator should be downstream of the fly and be fairly tight to the weight and fly then you can start to apply it to different situations. One of the most important aspects to fishing with egg flies is your indicator system. Egg flies, like nymphs, are dead-drifted downstream, so being able to quickly detect strikes from fish will increase your odds of landing good numbers of fish. Ideally, having an indicator made from bright-colored, high-floating foam is what you are looking for but putties and yarn can also be adequate with shallower water conditions. Detecting strikes from fish is a combination of watching the indicator and the behavior of the fish at the same time (given you can see the fish working the bottom). In most instances, takes from large fish will be obvious, with the fish moving off of the bottom to where the fly is drifting and sucking down the indicator aggressively. In other cases the indicator won't move as you pass the fishes position but you visualize the fishes mouth actively eating objects floating downstream or you will simply see a tick or slowing down of the indicator giving you just enough info to set the hook before the fish spits your egg fly. Paying close attention to each drift and how your fly line is drifting will pay off in the long run. The biggest fish seem to always be the ones that suck in egg flies softly barely tipping you off to their presence on your line.

The eggs from spawning fish in the river may come in many different sizes and colors. Eggs from spawning rainbow trout are approximately 3/16 inch in size and can be characterized with a translucent yellowish-orange color. Brown trout have eggs that are roughly a 1/4 inch in size and are bright orange like the rest. Imitating these different types of eggs can be very lucrative for fly fisherman like all other fisherman taking into account that the season and weather conditions are correct for the species you are targeting.

It is also a good idea to carry egg patterns in an off-white or cream color. When the natural eggs are laid, some do not get fertilized during the spawning procedure and become a murky, whitish color. These dead eggs sometimes can save the day when fish become extremely finicky. Finally, carrying patterns that range from single eggs to egg clusters can also be a good idea. When fishing murky water using an egg cluster patterns has been known to work a little better than single eggs. In turn when you are fishing clearer waters with finicky fish single or double egg patterns will produce the best results.

Fishing egg flies might not be exactly what you envisioned when you first thought about getting into fly fishing, but for a short time every year they are some of the most productive flies you can fish. Any seasoned fly angler will attest to these flies productiveness, so why not get out and add another time tested technique to your arsenal? Tie up a couple of these in both 6mm and 4mm in apricot, tangerine and ruby colors. Don’t forget to add the milk veil.

*NOTE: One more thing…and this always rubs me when I see it. Stay off of the redds!!! Every year I see moron’s walk right through the redds, or fish to spawning pairs on redds. When you walk through a redd you are killing scores of unborn trout. When you fish to a spawning pair you are unnecessarily stressing them possibly causing the hen to jet her eggs prematurely resulting in unfertilized eggs. You are definitely not doing the trout or anyone any favors if you do these things. If you witness anyone doing this, don’t stand by idly and do nothing…say something, they may not be aware and you could be in a position to educate them. Then, they in turn could educate someone else…and isn’t that what our club is about? Good Luck…and tight lines!

Not Every Day!
By Clay Gill – Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

It was one of those days when everything goes right. The wind was down only one day that week. We were starting out on a great falling tide. Good sun allowed easy clear water sight fishing. The Redfish were crashing and crawling up on the sand, falling over sideways chasing bait. Big Redfish crashed bait all around us, and splashed like falling bowling balls hitting the water. Adrenaline pumps, and it's hard to do the right thing while casting at one fish and another
splashes, churns and plunders right beside you in the narrow outflow ditches. We could see the top half of the fish as they marauded aggressively, --feeding in these remote back lake ditches.

We had gone to Port O'Connor to learn more about the extensive back country there. Word of an amazing guide there lead us to James Shuler who knows his stuff. He is a very patient and talented “people” person. We had heard that, and it was true. There are good guides and some are heads and shoulders above others. James is good! He knows where, when and how to get your line stretched. Be ready.

We were prowling the myriad of abundant back lakes all along the mainland and islands of the Port O'Connor area, north and south. I promised not to divulge the exact spots. They are really only accessible by technical skiff and the skill to squeeze safely into a back lake by way of tiny ditches that look like wet sand as you enter the paradise. Many boats tried to check our lakes out but only tunnel skiffs with a “jack plate” to lift the motor allow access on a falling tide. We entered one fast-in four fingers of flowing water to get in. You never cut sea grass-and often you can pole in -if stealth really matters. You run many miles to hop from one to another.

Once inside these “pockets” of crystal clear water, you find fish that do not see the parade of bay boats and kayaks in crowded areas. The target this day was the confluence of “ditches” which are most always highways for feeding fish. The key is movement. Not fish--but tide! “You got flow--you got fish--usually“, James said. It was not long and we saw a spectacle you do not see every day. Feeder ditches run water out of the football field sized lakes. Often several come together. They look like a tame flowing rivers. This is where it gets interesting, --and crazy!

What Shuler does is try to pick the side that has the least activity and pole the boat on the edge and allow you time for a calm approach to this organized mayhem. When the schools of Reds are doing this -they also drop into potholes and hold there for hapless bait to fall in with them. You can pitch at the ones swimming up on the sand chasing bait, or sneak up on gobs of Reds in deep holes right on the bottom. This pothole thing is common in spring. Areas with dark bottoms are also better if you can find ditches that are more muddy. Sun warms dark mud faster in cold springtime water. On this day it mattered not. The slobs had no manners at all!

A lucky day indeed when all things come together -but thank your lucky stars when it does. We had that one day with calm winds and nice weather. That is rare to schedule a trip weeks out and hit it right. What can help is to have a guide who knows his territory and what works most any day and situation. We had one of those amazing guys! It is not hit or miss--this is his back yard. He knows it very well.

The really neat thing about the desolate solitude of Port O’Connor is all the variety. You can do the coveted slam. This place has it all. There is even a four fish slam you may chase for years to bag. A Tarpon, Jack, Redfish and Tripletail is possible. Short runs to species respective spots nearby, -make it possible. I want to bust that one at least once-and then celebrate big time! That would be amazing!

The fish are seasonably predictable, and plentiful. Last summer Shuler got Tripletails up to 20 pounds on some of his guided trips. Tarpon and Jacks are often right out near the Port O’ Passes. The three fish slam was our goal, - Red, Flounder, and Trout. We lacked the Trout-go figure! Big Trout haunt these tidal ditches.

If you don’t like crowds, try amazing Port O’Connor. Stuck at the end of a long seemingly dead-end road, it is just the beginning. Adventure awaits in every direction. Port O crowds up on a holiday, -but is generally a slice of heaven. Check out Fin and Feather Guide Service in Port O’Connor.

I Go Swimming
By John Berry

I got up early, as usual, and went about my usual morning ritual. I made a fresh pot of coffee and sat down in front of my computer to check on the water conditions on the White and Norfork. I was pleasantly surprised to note the there was to be no generation on the Norfork River from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, a seven hour window. I quickly made my plans. Lori was busy and could not go. Luckily for me, my yellow Lab, Ellie had an opening in her schedule. I had to do several errands before I could go but I was able to gather my gear and my dog and arrive at the Ackerman Access around noon. It was a glorious day. It was sunny with a high around sixty degrees. The wind was forecast to be ten to twenty miles per
hour so I had brought my five weight rod, in lieu of my beloved four weight Light Line. I figured the heavier rod would handle the wind better.

The water had pretty much dropped out and we waded up stream into the Catch and Release section. There were a few people there but they were all fishing in one area and one of my favorite runs was open. The problem with the spot is that there is no place for Ellie to sit near me when I am fishing because the water is too deep on the near side. To stay close by she is required to constantly tread water. Ellie is getting a little old and that would tire her out too much. The other side of the run is shallower and I knew she would be more comfortable there. The problem was that to get there I would have to cross some tricky water and I would be vulnerable, if the water came up. I thought to myself, they are not scheduled to generate any water until 6:00 PM. I have plenty of time. This was my big mistake.

I pulled my collapsible wading staff from its holster and I carefully made it to the other side of the run. Ellie easily followed. I started fishing the run and picked up several fish along the way. I had been there a few minutes when I looked over to the other bank and noticed that there were no wet rocks. It dawned on me that the water was coming up. They had turned on the generators at 1:00 PM. I looked up stream and saw that the water was coming up faster than I had ever seen it. I hastily secured my hook and wound in my fly line. I started moving toward the crossing point as fast as I could. As I went, I closed all of the zippers on my fishing vest and mentally prepared for a tough wade.

I pulled my wading staff out and began across. The water was coming fast and half way across it swept me off my feet. I found myself floating down stream with my feet up in front of me, in case I hit any obstructions. I was floating well and was fairly relaxed considering what was happening. I looked down stream and saw Ellie swim to the far bank and walk onto the island. I was glad she was OK. I realized that I was being swept into ever deepening water. I would have to swim for the bank to escape the current. I let go of the wading staff (it was attached to my wader belt by a stout cord). I had my most expensive fly rod and reel with me. I gripped it tightly and began to swim the side stroke. I was once a life guard and also competed in triathlons (a long time ago). I made it to shallow water but I was unable to get my feet under me due to the strong current.

Ellie sensed my predicament and jumped in the water to stay with me. I saw a blow down (a tree that was half in and half out of the water and grabbed it as I drifted past. I pulled myself into shallow water and hanging onto the tree I was able to get my feet firmly planted and wade onto the island. I quickly checked out my situation. Ellie and I were safe on the island. We could make our way to the access from there. I had not broken my rod or lost any gear. I had only taken on a couple of quarts of water into my waders thanks to my snug wader belt. I was of course soaked to the skin. I had been lucky. There was no time to empty my waders, if we were to make it out before the water got any higher. The fly fishers on the other side of the island had been surprised by the fast rise and they waded out with us.

It was a bit dicey but we all made it to the access in a few minutes. I stripped off my waders and put on some dry socks and shoes. I sat in the sun for a few minutes to dry and then loaded Ellie in the Volvo for the trip back to Cotter.

I wrote this story because it is important for you to know that even an experienced guide that has been fishing the Norfork River for almost thirty years can make a mistake. I had trusted the information I had received and did not pay close enough attention to the water level. In the future, I will be more careful. I hope that you take this to heart and exercise care whenever wading on our streams. Things happen fast out there.

Keep Informed and Spread The Word
We need more clubs to join the ranks to help in the conservation and education efforts of the FFF. If you would like to start a club or know of a club that might be interested in affiliating with the FFF please direct them to the Club Information pages below:

Please send an e-mail to fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org should your club have a fishing / tying event / banquet. We would like to add these events to our web site calendar of events. Provide the date, location, name of your club and a website address that I can link to direct our members for more information. The events calendar is on the following web page http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4513