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

- FFF Member e-newsletter –
If you're 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=001oqwWjY62mflHsoPizZRg%3D%3D and just enter the e-mail address you would like it to be sent to.

- FFF – Check The Address –
We have discovered that many have a hard time throwing things away. After all we are interested in conservation….right?

Please…please, check all of your stock of FFF applications, etc. The proper mailing address for the office is now: PO Box 1688 – Livingston, MT 59047.

If you have anything with the Lewis Street address – cart them directly to your local recycling center and then call our office for updates brochures, applications, etc. 406-222-9369 ext 0

- National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave – Education, Inspiration, Celebration –
The 2010 National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave – EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, CELEBRATION - West Yellowstone Montana 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 on August 26 & 27 with some outstanding instructors at the spectacular Bar-N-Ranch and we have a one day youth camp scheduled for Saturday August 28.

Fly Fishing Fair Registration will open May 24, 2010 at 9am MST. Check the website 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.

Don’t forget to plan to attend the live auction 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!

- A Kid’s Guide to Fly Tying –
A Kid's Guide to Fly Tying, written by Tyler Befus, is now available on the FFF Gear Site. Tyler, an eleven year fly fisher and tier, tells you everything about fly-tying basics. Bob Jacklin introduces the book and notes "...a great beginner's guide to the wonderful world of fly tying. I wish I could have had this book when I was starting to learn this great art." You can purchase this book and other great FFF gear here.
Tying Video Of The Month –
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. To learn more about the Weekly Fly click here.

Book & DVD Reviews
Reviewed by Bruce E Harang

Advanced Streamer Fishing with Kelly Galloup by Kelly Galloup
Cascade Media Works, Inc., www.flyfishtv.com, 2010, DVD, 90 minutes, suggested price $29.95

Kelly Galloup gives a master class in his method of streamer fishing for large trout. The DVD provides the viewer with a graduate course in fly selection and streamer fishing techniques by the acknowledged premier trophy trout fisherman. The discussion of the types of flies both old and new is truly outstanding and without peer in any format. The discussion and visual illustration of successful retrieves and casting presentation is unparalleled. The discussion covers both old and new fly styles, articulated and weighted flies, fly color sequencing to keep on top of what the fish is looking for, how to present all types of streamers for the optimum effect in every type of water. This is also the only presentation that covers fishing streamers both while floating and wading. The videography, sound, and editing are of highest quality such that you are never distracted by technical issues from watching and listening to the information being presented. The value of the instruction is very much enhanced by the very professional production. Everyone that wants to actually catch a world class trophy river trout this is a must have DVD.

South Fork of the Snake River by Mike Lawson & Todd Lanning
Cascade Media Works, Inc., www.flyfishtv.com, 2010, DVD, 90 minutes, suggested price $24.95

The hosts present an excellent presentation of floating and fishing the South Fork of the Snake River. The program is broken into six river segments. Each segment is a logical day float with the exception of the multi-day float through the wilderness section. The hosts cover the boat ramps, the types of water to be fished on each section, the types of gear and flies, as well as the best presentations for each area of each section of the river. Fishing strategies include those using dry flies, nymphs, streamers and terrestrials. The production including the videography, sound, and editing is superb and adds to the overall effectiveness of the presentation. For everyone that plans on fishing the South Fork of the Snake this is a must have DVD.

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 6
By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

Our last Essential has to do with the application of Power which must be applied in the proper amount at the proper place in the casting stroke. This power application must be identical in both the forward and back cast. Apply power slowly at first and gradually increase speed before making a crisp stop. This power sequence first loads or bends the rod and then a stop unloads the rod propelling the fly line. Hammering a nail, throwing a dart or throwing paint from a wet paint brush all require the same slow start and then a smooth increase in acceleration to a sudden stop. Try doing this with a pencil in your hand to get the feel of a good cast, then pick up your fly rod butt section without line and duplicate the movement. When this feels comfortable, string your rod and do some lawn casting. Review the other four Essentials and put them all together.

The Demise Of Felt Soles
By Wayne Dalzell – Taken from the Osprey Flyfishers of BC Newsletter

Slippery stream bottoms have always been a fisher’s worst nightmare. Those really prolific rivers like the Thompson and this year the Chilliwack, with bountiful bottom life, have dumped many fishers onto their butts or worse. A quick rush of water down your backside really cools down your privates and makes warm socks squishy and cold. Just another day you say, well read on!

Stream cleats have been available for many years but are cumbersome to wear on dry land. On the Thompson River I remove mine as I walk back to my boat unless rain starts. Wet Thompson River rocks are the same above or below water
line. Stream cleats are also hell on the bottom of your boat to say nothing of the damage to your fly line if you step on it. What’s your alternative then?

Felt soled waders have been in use for eons of time but it has taken until recently to see their pitfalls. Canadian, American and researchers/scientists in many other areas of the world have confirmed the tiny areas between the felt fibers are a perfect holding space for waterborne didymo (rock snot) and whirling disease. Snips and snails and puppy dog tails too! Might be nothing, you say, but consider damage is “afoot” to pristine trout waters worldwide.

“The introduction (by fishers felt soled boots?) of single celled algae called didymo to New Zealand in the early 2000’s quickly caused a significant ecological and economic problem.” Didymo forms large mats on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams. It is not considered a significant human health risk, but it affects stream habitats and reduces sources of food for fish.

“Native to the boreal forests, didymo was not historically a significant problem. However, the pattern of didymo spread among rivers on Vancouver Island correlates with the activity of fishermen and the commercial introduction and widespread use of felt-soled waders. “Didymo has spread to the Thompson, Columbia, Kettle and Kootenay rivers, other Canadian and many American rivers

In 2008 Simms introduced Vibram boots and in 2010 said they would no longer sell new felt soled boots. New Zealand has already banned felts as will parts of Alaska in 2011 with other areas to follow. Most wading boot companies have followed the industry leader. The move to eliminate felt will grow quickly although sales of felt replacements may grow temporarily. Keep in mind that other parts of wading boots might actually be of more concern than felt soles.

All science aside, it appears that personal intervention in preventing the spread of water borne diseases is your responsibility. Wash and dry your boots inside and out with soap and water after use, especially before heading to a different river or lake. Buy more than one pair, rotate your fishing boots, buy a new pair every two years or? Easy to say if you have an unlimited budget! I use a different pair of boots lake fishing and river fishing. My lake boots are too old for good river use so fit my budget well. Is this good enough?

New Simms boots (with Vibram soles) are now a wide fit, and difficult to wear without special fitting if you have narrow feet. Vibram soles are slippery on slimy rocks and logs, not suited to our fishing environment and what we walk on.

The latest advice from fly shops is “buy screw in cleats” but cleats sound like tap dancing shoes, don’t last forever and cost $10 per boot. Cleats also mark or mar boat bottoms, easily puncture inflatable tubes, cut your fly lines and are difficult to slip into fins when float tubing. The cheapest route may be to remove the cleats when you don’t need them but, what a hassle!

You could resole your felt boots but don’t plan on fishing in Alaska, many U.S. states, or New Zealand. Maybe cleats and Vibram will be okay. There aren’t many solutions but your actions could help reduce the ecological impact of waterborne diseases!

A summary of an article by Bob Wiltshire, The Science of Felt - 2009, with special touches from my own experiences.

Fly Tying Can Be Important: Look What It Did For Me
By Lloyd Bull – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

Following my discharge from the navy after WWII I applied, along with thousands of other veterans, to get admitted to the Pre-Med schools at either Penn State or Cornell to no avail. As classes were beginning in the fall I received a call informing me that there had been a cancellation and that if I was there within 24 hours I would be granted admission. I grabbed some clothes, kissed my wife and son goodbye, jumped in my truck and drove the 300 miles to the campus and became a Penn Stater intending to become a doctor.

One of the courses I eventually took was a new 2 credit course called "The Art of Angling" to be taught by George Harvey. For a full semester we learned every aspect about the food fishes eat and how to tie replicas on a hook that would catch fish. George Harvey was a master in teaching us the ways to produce a professionally tied fly in the shortest amount of time. He had put all of the best methods of professional fly tiers world wide together into one course and I absorbed it like a sponge. It turned out to be one of the best courses I took in college.
As I was to enter my senior year and still had not been accepted at Med Schools at either Penn or Cornell I changed my curriculum to Ag Economics where I would get my degree. Three days later I received a phone call from Cornell telling me that someone had cancelled out and I would be accepted. I made a quick assessment of my financial status, my remaining G. I. B. 1. Bill status and a growing family and I declined the offer. I was already offered a very attractive position when I received my degree and no way financially could I handle another 3 years of college.

Two years after graduation I was on my way to accept a position as Manager of Farm Credit in Herkimer, N Y. As I drove down Route #28 to my new job it took me 20 miles along this beautiful river called the West Canada Creek. The West Canada was to become a major part of my life from there on. For the next year I was on the West Canada as often as possible accumulating information on fly hatches during the entire season and tied flies to supplement my income. Money was tight but I gambled $10.00 to put an ad in Field and Stream. I offered 20 flies for 10 of the major fly hatches along with the emergence dates of the hatches, number of days the hatch would last, the time of day of the emergence and how long it would last each day. My investment in the ad paid off handsomely and I became a "Professional Fly Tier" with a very nice list of customers. The word spread and I soon had almost more requests for the flies I tied and the accompanying information than I could keep up with.

In 1953 I made a speech to one of the service clubs about fly fishing and fly tying. After the meeting adjourned the head of the Adult Education Program explained to me that they were going to venture into some new areas and asked me if I would consider teaching a class in Fly Tying. It would be the first time in the country that such a course would be offered and I agreed to do it but said I could handle only 20 people in a class. An ad was run in the paper and on registration night 40 people showed up so I taught 2 classes 3 hours a night for the 15 weeks of the class. That gave my students 42 hours of fly tying and 3 hours of casting lessons. In May the whole class went to the West Canada, and under my supervision every single person caught and released a trout on flies they had tied themselves. My reputation was made that evening. The demand for my classes accelerated until I was teaching 3 hour classes in 4 different schools 4 nights a week in addition to my full time job with Farm Credit. I had taught the course at 11 different schools and 2 colleges, most of them for several years in a row. I had bought a small petroleum distributorship and had built it into becoming the biggest operation in the country, forcing me to cut down on the amount of time I could contribute to teaching in the evenings. After 15 years I gave up teaching the 15 week classes but continued to do "short courses" in several areas by request.

The Horrocks-Ibbotson Company in Utica, makers of Bamboo rods and other fishing equipment wanted to get into the fly tying business and asked me to teach 30 women for this purpose. Several of my students went on to major positions catering to the Fly Fishing Industry and others became regular tiers for companies such as Orvis and Feather River Trading or went into business for themselves as professional fly tiers. Most of my students of all ages, young and old tied for the pleasure it offered, sold a few flies and became some of the best fly fishermen in the area because they now had learned how and when to fish the hatches that come off.

Fly tying is an art and if you are taught the basic fundamentals of tying you can produce superb flies in the least amount of time. For many years I would tie two and a half to three dozen flies an hour to keep up with the demand and tied about 3 hours an evening. The money I made paid for fishing trips throughout Canada and the United States with occasional other countries in the world. That course taught by George Harvey at Penn State opened up many doors for me and I offer opening those same doors for young people today. Fly tying does not have to be expensive. I will show you all you need to start and it doesn't cost much. Some of the best tools I use I have made myself. Come to the May meeting at 5:30 or as early as possible. I will be there and there will be something to learn for all levels of fly tiers.

It is my feeling that this club should get back to teaching Fly Tying. I did it for years when the club was young and it has evolved into a spectator event with a designated Fly Tier. There is a place for that but you do not learn much about tying a fly if you are a beginner watching someone across a table putting a fly together. It takes hands on instruction and we have not been offering that. Bringing young people into fly tying will benefit both those young people and the Tampa Fly Fishing Club. I know. It has been my life.

River Tricks
By Bill Slough – Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

With the Bud Priddy One Fly Contest almost upon us, here are a couple of tricks to add to your bag. First of all, the
Nueces River has some large bass in it, but you often don’t see them until they are already moving away from you. Chasing after them usually doesn’t work, but river bass have a habit of returning to the same place. Even when not spooked, they tend to have a circuit they patrol. So if the bass is big enough to be worth spending some time on, an effective technique is to find a shaded place where you can wait for the bass to return. Just make sure you’re in a position where you can get off a cast. If you see the bass coming a ways off, make the cast as early as possible, to avoid spooking it again.

Also, years ago, one of the guides spoke to the club. I’ve forgotten his name, but he made the comment that if he floated through a run that he knew held fish, but nothing was biting, he would slap his paddle on the water to wake the fish up, and then float through again. A few of us in the back of the room looked at each other, wondering if he was serious. Since then I’ve had my own experience that seemed to prove him right. I was fishing a pool on the Nueces that I knew held some fish, but there was nothing in sight, not even a perch. There was a brush pile against the far shore, and I worked the edge of it with no luck. Then I threw a bad cast and snagged my fly way up in the brush. Not wanting to lose it, I rammed my kayak into the pile, forcing my way into where I could retrieve the fly. When I did that, a whole bunch of bass and perch moved out from under the brush, into the main river, and within a few minutes they were catch-able, including one of the bigger bass. Ever since then, when I am finished fishing around a brush pile or log jam, I always go over and shake it. It has saved the day more than once, a couple of times spooking out big bass that I had shots at when they returned. Give it a try, but you might want to do it when nobody’s looking. People already think us fly fishers are crazy.

Good Day Fishing In The Rain
By John Berry

Don gave me a call to see if I could guide him and his buddy, Allen, during Sowbug. I told him that I was committed to tying flies and giving seminars for the three full days but that I could guide him on the Sunday after Sowbug. We agreed and booked the trip. The weather and fishing during the Roundup were spectacular. Every day I sat in the main tying room cranking out flies and talking to attendees. Over and over I heard just how perfect the weather was and how the fishing was even better. I heard tales of incredible caddis fly hatches and fifty fish days on dry flies. The Corps of Engineers was cooperating and providing a never ending supply of low wadable water. I had heard of the perfect storm but never the perfect fishing conditions. All the time, I was stuck with the other fly tyers and North Arkansas Fly Fishers volunteers wishing that we could wet a line.

On Sunday, the weather turned bad and a storm front moved in. When I picked the guys up it was raining. It wasn't the hard sideways rain, like we got in Viet Nam. It was a gentler, slow soaking rain that was none the less relentless. It was also about twenty degrees colder than the previous few days. Gone was the sunshine that all of us had taken for granted. We realized that it was going to be a wet cold day. The guys were positive and were committed to having a good time. I was glad to be outside and, since I had good rain gear and heavy fleece, the weather didn't bother me.

We decided to fish Rim Shoals, as it had been fishing well lately. There was no generation on the White River and it was very low. In fact, it was as low as I have seen it for a long time. Donald had undergone a knee replacement recently and was having a bit of a problem with the other knee as well. I therefore launched my river boat, so that we could motor over to the island and avoid a sporty wade. I thought this would be significantly easier on Donald's knee.

We walked down the island to one of my favorite spots. This is the place where I fish, if I can wade, on my day off. I rigged him up with a caddis pupa because we had been getting a solid caddis hatch every afternoon around two in the afternoon. Don was into a good fish almost immediately. I netted it for him and then took Allen down stream to another spot nearby. He hooked a good fish right off. I always breathe a sigh of relief when all of my clients have landed a fish. The morning went well. Donald landed a solid twenty inch rainbow and Allen held his own with several nice trout. About noon, we decided to break for lunch. Donald was having a bit of difficulty with his knee and I knew we would have to change things up in the afternoon.

We walked back up to the boat and ferried over to the ramp. I directed the guys to take shelter at the Rim Shoals Trout Dock pavilion. I went over to my ancient Volvo and grabbed my cooler and my guide box that contained the bread, chips and cookies. We sat at a picnic table and ate our lunch. It was nice to be out of the unrelenting rain, even if it was only for a few minutes. I took off my gloves and wrung them out. We relaxed for a few minutes. It was time to get back in the
action. Despite the rain we had landed around twenty good fish. The guys were upbeat but Donald was not prepared for any further wading.

We decided to finish the day fishing from the boat. The river was lower than a snake's belly in a wagon rut and there were not many spots where we could run the boat. I headed up to Red Bud Shoals. I knew that it would be loaded with fish. I got in the main channel and began my drift. Donald hit a good trout immediately. Allen was right behind him with a good fish. We kept drifting the same water and picked up one or more fish on each drift. There were several doubles and the action was constant all afternoon. The trout were a bit smaller than in the morning. They made up for their size with their enthusiasm and tough fighting abilities.

The rain was having its effect on the river. I noticed that there was some run off coming in at several spots which were starting to muddy the river. We carefully avoided those areas and stayed in clear water. It paid off. About five PM the guys were ready to pull the plug. Thy said that neither of them had ever had that good of a day. We boated well over fifty fish.

Based on the weather, I had not expected much of a day of fishing when I picked up the guys that morning. I was proven wrong. A positive attitude and good rain gear made lemonade out of lemons. Don't let a little rain interfere with your fishing. Remember the fish are already wet.

Pontoon Boat Safety Tips

By John Peterson – Taken from the Granite Bay Flycasters Newsletter

Drifting in a pontoon boat can be an enjoyable experience; follow these common sense rules & these simple reminders will go a long way in keeping you out of trouble on the river, which can be a lot different from floating on still water lakes.

1. Learn to read the water. The real secret to successful drifting is to let the natural flow of the river do the work. Use it to your advantage!

2. Safety is always a concern. A personal life vest is mandatory on most waters. Caution: some states/rivers do not allow inflatable life vests. Vests should always be worn in rough/unknown water or windy conditions. It is a good idea to tie down your oars as they can easily be pushed out of the oar-locks if struck by an object. A spare oar is not a bad idea. I always tie a loose 10 foot line between the bow-stern pontoon rings which can be used to tie down when exiting/tethering the boat or otherwise can be grabbed easily if needed in an emergency. I usually carry a hand pump as air pressures change during the day. A patch kit is optional, but I always carry a Leatherman-type tool in my side pouch.

3. Anchors are another issue. They should always be used when the boat is beached. Scope out at least 8 feet of rope regardless of water depth. I have chased several boats down river when anchored too tightly. Anchors can be used midstream, in mild flowing water. Always deploy the anchor when the boat is facing straight down stream; if the boat is angled, a pontoon can dig in or otherwise tip you over. Take care when anchoring in very fast water. My motto: “If not sure, don’t anchor”. Caution: Anchors do get caught in rocks & may not be retrievable; cutting the rope & abandoning the anchor may be the only option.

4. What to do about rods? Tie them down or tether if in unknown or questionable water. I personally do not care for vertical rod holders as I have seen many rods lost when pulled out by overhead branches. My preference is to lay/string my rod lengthwise along the pontoon. A plastic case, rope loops or shock type cord all work well. Remember to pay attention to what is above & below you when floating down a river. Banging into obstacles in the river or on the bank can expose rod tips to breakage.

5. While drifting down river it is common to get into shallow water, to graze the bottom, hit a rock or bank. The pontoons normally are rugged enough to withstand most impacts. Always face down river & let the natural current do the work. The key is to keep away from sharp objects! Watch out for sticks, sharp rocks & overhead sweepers (trees or branches hanging over the water). Keep your feet on the pegs, out of the water when drifting or they may get caught & pull you out of the boat. I do not use fins on moving water for similar reasons.

6. Reading the water is important. As the river flows you will encounter fast, slow, shallow & deep water. Water will form a natural “V” indicating the channel, follow through the “V” where practical. An inverted “V” indicates a
submerged object, pass to one side or the other. When there is a bend in the river the deeper channel is usually towards the outside bank.

7. When faced with an obstruction or anything else you want to avoid point the boat towards the object & row away from it. Short, shallow, strong strokes work well for adjusting boat direction. Many times the object creates a “bow wave” which may help by pushing you away from the obstruction. In very swift water flow however, the current can carry you directly into the object. There is usually a depression after passing an object midstream & you may be drawn back towards the obstacle (back eddy).

8. It is common to encounter small waterfalls (drops) along the river & many times we become overly concerned when faced with the dilemma “find a way around or go over”. If there is no other easy option, face them, take on straight forward & normally the boat will porpoise straight through.

9. Hydraulics are similar to depressions except they are created by object(s) under water & not always visible. Hydraulics can be scary, they are rough, can bounce you around, spin, or otherwise hold you in place for what seems like an incredible length of time. Rowing either forward or backward will help stabilize/control the boat & eventually will carry you out/through the rough water.

10. Holding the oars down into the water can assist in aiding the current to carry you down stream & stabilize the boat. A hard upstream wind can halt your progress & even push you backwards. Just holding the oars submerged in the water can be more effective than rowing, assists in offsetting the wind influence & can keep you moving down stream.

11. If you fall into the water, don’t panic, roll onto your back & face down stream so your legs will protect you from objects. Pull backwards with both hands & eventually you will get to shore.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4513)