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Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association

Volume 9 Issue 1

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
PAFLYFISHING.ORG

...To preserve and share America's fly fishing heritage and the role of Pennsylvanians in this tradition.

PPFMA Tenth Annual Dinner & Auction

We had a fantastic 10th Anniversary Celebration on October 4th at the Allenberry Resort Inn!

The event was special in many ways. Joe Humphreys was our honored guest for the event and he presented an exclusive video which featured fly fishing legend, George Harvey. Our special guest for the evening was Al Caucci, as the inventor of this year's commemorative fly, the Comparadun. More than 80 people were able to mingle with Joe and Al as well as enjoy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, special music and a delectable dinner. Our silent and live auctions were both great successes due to the generosity of all of our guests that evening. Fifty-five items were on the silent and live auction block that evening, made possible by donations from 46 generous businesses and individuals. Please take a moment to read the list of donors and help us to thank them in the coming year.

PPFMA is grateful and appreciative for the generosity shown by our donors and attendees. We could not do it without them. Thank you once again for a successful fundraising event!

Business Donors

Allenberry Resort Inn & Playhouse	www.allenberry.com
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Commemorative Fly Tiers

Al Caucci
Tom Baltz
Don Holbrook
Greg Hoover
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Scott Loughner
Henry Ramsey
Paul Rebarchak
Todd Spracht
Frank Thompson
Tom Whittle
Dave Williams III
Harold Williams

2008 Heritage Day



Ed Sherk, Tom Baltz and Don Holbrook display their artistic talents in fly tying at last year's Heritage Day.

7th Annual Heritage Day

Last year's Heritage Day event was a record breaker with more than 250 in attendance. The event was held again at the beautiful Allenberry Resort Inn & Playhouse in Boiling Springs, along the banks of the Yellow Breeches Creek. The day was filled to the brim with casting instructions, fly tiers, presentations, demonstrations, vendors, and exhibitors. The Rubber Fish Race down the Yellow Breeches was entertaining and the Grand Prize Winner received \$500 cash! The new Casting Competition was a hit this year in all three categories: Youth, Amateur, and Open. Check out the information and photos from the 2008 Heritage Day on the PPFMA website.

Don't miss out on this year's festivities. The event promises to be even better than this year's! So mark your calendars for June 20th, (the Saturday of Father's Day weekend).

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MAIN EXHIBIT AREA:
Allenberry Resort Inn
Rt. 174, P.O.Box
Boiling Springs, PA 17065
Fairfield Hall
7717-258-3211
www.allenberry.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM:

All members will receive a membership card, the Museum's newsletter, and special mailings.

Friend \$25
Contributor \$50
Sponsor \$75
Patron \$100
Sustainer \$125
Benefactor \$250

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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THANK YOU !

Make Checks Payable to and Mail to:
PPFMA
P. O. Box 541
Enola, PA 17025

The official registration and financial information of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1(800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The PPFMA wish's to thank all donors and participations for a successful event

Stoneflies

by Gregory A. Hoover

It's been estimated that insects comprise more than 70% of all macroinvertebrates (ex. aquatic worms, scuds, sowbugs, crayfish, etc.) in a stream. Obviously, stoneflies, members of the insect order Plecoptera, are major components of a healthy trout stream. There are nine families of stoneflies that contain 99 different genera in North America. To date there are 550 recognized stonefly species in North America.

As a flyfisher, you can recognize an immature stonefly by the gills at the base of each leg. This is just one way to confirm that you're looking at a stonefly nymph. Additionally, you can identify a stonefly nymph by the presence of a well-developed head that has three distinct thoracic regions located behind it. Lastly, you know that all stonefly nymphs have two tails. Another characteristic is that immature stoneflies have two claws at the end of their legs. By comparison, most mayfly nymphs only have one claw. Before you call or write to me - no, I don't think it's important to tie stonefly nymphs or any other nymph for that matter with claws! Use the above characteristics to teach folks who are new to our sport when having discussions with them regarding water quality. Stoneflies are excellent sentinels of water quality.

The family Perlidae is important to fly tyers and fly rod anglers. There are 49 different species of stoneflies in this family. Nymphs in the family Perlidae are predators that feed on mayflies, net-spinning caddisfly larvae, and midge larvae. Two common genera, *Acroneuria* and *Agnatina* contain 12 species and three species respectively. Many of these species are important trout food. You may be familiar with a western species in this family, *Calineuria californica*, that's known as the golden stonefly. In eastern and midwestern United States the great brown stonefly, *Acroneuria lycorias*, the yellowlegged stonefly, *Attaneuria ruralis*, and the great stonefly, *Agnatina capitata*, are important to fly rod anglers. This last species is one referred to in fly fishing literature of the past as the Perla stonefly. This name was derived from a previous classification (*Perla capitata*). Species in this family are found in small streams as well as large rivers. Most large trout streams in the Mid-Atlantic region like Pine Creek, Loyalsock Creek, Penns Creek, and the Delaware River have excellent populations of perlid stoneflies. Nymphs are 12-30 mm (1/2-1 1/4 in) long, dark to light brown patterned with light tan to yellow. Nymphs are often found in leaf litter in fast flowing stretches of trout streams. Many perlid species require two years to reach maturity. Therefore, it's important to carry different size imitations depending on the time of the year that you are fly fishing as well as the productivity of the stream you're fishing as compared to another. Mature nymphs crawl from streams usually after dark. Nymphal cases may be seen on rocks, tree trunks, and bridges along your favorite trout streams. The presence of these cases is an indication that fishing a nymphal imitation of this stonefly species may be a productive choice. I've seen perlid adults emerge from late May through early August on trout streams in Pennsylvania, and they may live for several weeks.

One of my favorite stonefly nymph patterns is the woven stonefly. It's one of the most effective patterns that I've had the good fortune to catch different species of trout on from coast to coast. Tie and fly fish the woven stonefly nymph pattern in hook sizes 8-12 that are 2XL. When tying patterns that are designed to imitate stonefly nymphs, be sure to dub or build a large, robust thoracic region that imitates the correct proportions of the insect. So many fly tyers do not properly tie their stonefly nymphal patterns with a large enough thorax. I believe this may be the result of what they observe in some catalogs and fly boxes.

To discover more about stoneflies and the fly rod angler, consult the wonderful book, "Stoneflies for the Angler" by Eric Leiser and Robert H. Boyle. For more information on stonefly nymphs, I suggest reading the excellent entomological reference, "Nymphs of North American Stonefly Genera (Plecoptera)". This text was written in 1988 by Kenneth Stewart and Bill Stark. It was published as volume 12 of the Thomas Say Foundation by the Entomological Society of America.

During this coming trout season cast your favorite imitations of stonefly nymphs to trout on your home water whether the stream is large or small. While maintaining good contact with your imitation, who knows what may strike your fly when presenting it in a deep, productive riffle this season. Tight lines!

Greg Hoover is an entomologist in the Department of Entomology at the Pennsylvania State University and the faculty advisor to the Penn State Fly Fishing Club. He's coauthor of the book, Great Rivers, Great Hatches and is a board member of the **Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association**. Greg provides lectures on aquatic entomology to fly fishing groups across the country. **He can be reached at (814) 234-0782.**

MEMBERSHIP

As our Museum program develops and expands, membership dues become an increasingly important source of revenue. We currently lease a building in Carlisle for storage of our large amount of collected material. It also provides area for designing and assembling our satellite exhibits. Currently, we have re-created George Harvey's fly tying room in exact detail as he donated all of his tying items to the museum.

We plan to continue doing our oral history interviews with important Pennsylvania fly fishermen. More collections are actively sought and our very successful Heritage Day in June keeps growing in attendance.

In order to progress, we are striving to increase membership numbers, as this is vital to our growth.

Please consider joining us now if you have not done so already. If you would be interested in being an active participant in the Museum activities, please contact us. **Charlie Knight**, Membership Director, PFFMA

PFFMA's Current Exhibit at Allenberry

Tackle Makers and Retailers of Philadelphia Beginning in the 18th Century

Fly fishing in America started in Pennsylvania. Colonial aristocrats settling in Philadelphia, and later British officers, brought flyfishing tackle and methods from England where it had been practiced since the 15th Century. A number of merchants offered imported fishing tackle, when available, as early as 1731. Even Benjamin Franklin in 1741 sold fishing items in his printers shop. However, major dealers in fishing tackle did not appear until the 1770s, and retailers often used the terms "maker" and "manufacturer" liberally. From colonial times to the middle 20th Century, Philadelphia tackle makers and retailers supplied anglers of every economic level with a variety of fishing tackle. They served not only colonists, but also world travelers stopping in Philadelphia for sporting supplies on their way to the American wilderness.

The current PFFMA exhibit features detailed displays of rods, advertising, and paperwork of Philadelphia's early tackle trade. This exhibit highlights rodmakers, tackle makers, and retailers of William Penn's great city. **Edward Pole** (1770's – 1800) was one of the 1st known successful tackle retailers in 18th century America, and **William Ransted** (1770's) was a major competitor. Pole's successor, **George Lawton** (early 1800's), sold a complete array of fishing tackle to the Lewis and Clark expedition. **Davis Hugh Davis** (1770's – 1790's) was America's 1st recorded fly tier and supplier to the trade.

Thaddeus Norris (1840 – 1877), a successful merchant and tailor with a passion for fishing, sold tackle and constructed fly rods, and contributed to the developing theories of rod building and fly fishing. He authored the 19th century's angler's bible, *The American Angler's Book* (1864). He is America's Isaac Walton. James Leisening, the Pocono wet fly legend, called Thaddeus Norris "America's Greatest Fly Fisherman".

The display features historic rods of high quality from innovative rodmakers **George Burgess** (1841 – 1882), **John Krider** (1835 -1886), **John T. Siner** (1886 – 1903) and **L. C. Siner** (1903 – 1930's). There is also a nearly complete listing of the city's tackle retailers: **A B Shipley** (1870)/**M A Shipley** (1895 - 1920); **William Reed** (1872) (later **Reed & Gildner** (1880's), then **Phillip Reed** (1900); **J.Goldsmith (later J. Goldsmith & Son** (1880's), then **J. Goldsmith & Ancker** (1882); **William Wurflein** (1884); **Murtha, Appleton Company** (1889).

Other, more familiar retailers included the **E. K. Tryon Company** (1811 – 1960's), which offered a complete line of tackle under their trade names "Kingfisher", "Pennell" and "Crown". **Supplee-Biddle Hardware Company** (1920's – 1970's) sold an extensive line of tackle marketed under the "Congress" brand name. **M&H Sporting Goods** (1900 -1953), founded by Louis Moskowitz and Louis Herbach, became tackle industry giants, selling a full range of quality tackle, and had the best retail staff available, including some outdoor writers. M & H owned the Ocean City Reel Company and eventually M & H merged with Ocean City in 1953.

Ocean City Reel Company, founded in 1923, bought companies affected by the Depression. It also acquired Montague Rod & Reel Company and Edward Vom Hofe Company, which moved to Philadelphia in 1941. Ocean City gave birth to a number of other Philadelphia companies. Joe Hirsch left and developed the "Castomatic" reel within the Outdoor Products Division of the Quaker City Gear Works. Penn Reel Company acquired Ocean City in the 1960's.

By Jerry Girard, Director, PFFMA

Continued in the Spring Issue of the PFFMA Newsletter

7TH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA FLY FISHING HERITAGE DAY - PREREGISTRATION FORM

Number of Attendees, including lunch: \$12 each x _____ = \$ _____
(Free admission for 15 year olds and younger)

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Number of YOUTH Lunches: \$6 each x _____ = \$ _____

Fish Swim Raffle Tickets: \$10 each x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to and Mail to:
PFFMA, 1240 North Mountain Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Confirmation will be by email only or call 717-599-8645
Fish Swim Raffle Tickets will be mailed to you.