

TERRESTRIALS, FREESTONES, and FAIR WEATHER

My more than 50-year love affair with fly fishing has centered mostly on terrestrial patterns, freestone streams, and fair weather. That's not to say that I had not fished my share of limestone streams, especially in my early years, with a full arsenal of flies and, in many cases, in downright lousy weather. I preferred fishing the prolific spring hatches with dry flies, but work forced me to start my fly fishing later in the season. I owned and operated a fly shop from the mid-60's to the late-70's, which occupied most of my time from March through June. By then, many major hatches were over, with the exception of a few sporadic caddis flies and some pale mayflies, so I had to think about terrestrials in the late season. I usually didn't start my fly fishing until after many had stopped, and that's not a bad thing.

Vince Marinaro and Charlie Fox were having great success with terrestrials in the late season, along with newcomers Ed Koch and Ed Shenk. They focused on meadow insects, hoppers, beetles, ants, and leafhoppers in brown, green, yellow, and black. These angling greats standardized terrestrial fishing. The Yellow Breeches, Letort, Big Springs, and Falling Springs were all a 45 to 90 minute drive for me, so I opted for the 15-minute drive to the freestone mountain streams of Dauphin County, my favorites being Clark Creek and Stony Creek, just north of Harrisburg.

Successful terrestrial fishing on these mountain streams calls for black or dark brown patterns, with the exception of the chartreuse green inchworm. The inchworms start falling around the end of May and only last into June/July in my fishing area. Ants and beetles were very productive in sizes #12 to #18, but, my favorite fly was the Letort Cricket, developed by Ed Shenk in 1959, modeled on his earlier hopper pattern. Although my preferred size is 14, I have fished the cricket in sizes up to #10 and #8, tied on a 2X long shank. The Letort Cricket, with a few modifications, has been my go-to fly for most of my angling life. It has worked very well for me many times on numerous streams.

Although fishing terrestrials before July was not readily accepted back then, I remember a day in mid-April when I took nine trout from a pool in mid afternoon. That ended any thoughts of not fishing a cricket whenever I chose. I have regularly taken brown, rainbow, and brook trout with equal success, as well as bass and panfish. Fishing woodland and mountain streams in mid summer to late fall, when waters are very low and crystal clear, requires a stealth different from that demanded by limestone fishing. On the latter, silhouette, flash, and reflection will readily alarm trout. Mountain streams call for a quieter, slower approach, so not to disturb the water's surface and stream bottom. Trout can feel vibrations from an incautious fisherman 50 feet away. Gently enter the stream in a riffled area and quietly, slowly wade to a point where you are in position to start casting. It's a good idea to wait a while and enjoy nature until things settle down. Approach is critical, and fishing from the stream bank is not a good option because of the ever-present vegetation. Silhouettes are not as much a problem as on open meadow streams, since stream bank vegetation from mountain laurel and hemlocks provides a background.

I prefer short rods that cast 3 or 4 weight lines for most of my fishing wherever possible. Sometimes it requires a little more wading to get close enough for an effective cast. Wearing waist-high waders cautions me not to wade too deep. I have a favorite 6' fiberglass rod that loads quickly and makes great presentations on small streams. I use a 6' and 7' graphite for longer casts when longer leaders are needed. I like the 4-weight, but will sometimes use a 5-weight line to cast larger crickets. Although Ed Shenk's Letort Cricket has been my go to fly, I have modified the body some. I wrap black vinyl tubing around the shank, and palmer it with black hackle, which I then clip close. My favorite inchworm dressing is George Harvey's clipped deer hair pattern in chartreuse. Most dark beetle patterns work well, and a black foam body ant is very effective in #18 and #12. And remember, terrestrials aren't just for limestone streams or late summer.

Tom Hoffmaster, Director PFFMA

The mission of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association (PFFMA) is to preserve and promote the heritage of fly fishing in Pennsylvania and its role in the conservation of natural resources. The PFFMA strives to collect, protect and curate the artifacts and historical contributions of those associated with fly fishing in the Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association came about in the late 1990s primarily to collect and maintain the personal artifacts of Vincent Marinaro relating to his fly fishing, writing, and photographic interests. An article concerning the man and the collection has been published on our website (www.paflyfishing.org) for some time. Beginning with this issue of our newsletter, we shall regularly present articles relating to the Association's collections to give you an idea of the extent of our collection, and perhaps to trigger your thoughts and actions regarding additional individuals or items. In due time, similar reports on collections of memorabilia relating to Chauncey Liveley, Jim Bashline, Sam Slaymaker, Charles Fox, Ed Koch, George Harvey, Joe Humphreys, and others will complement the Marinaro article.

The Association's collection efforts are ongoing. If you have knowledge of, or interest in, historically significant individuals in Pennsylvania Fly Fishing, please contact us at info@paflyfishing.org.

Tom Houf, President PFFMA

WORKSHOPS: Saturday, October 16, AllenberryResort, Pre-registration Required

Lunch with Fly Fishing Legends: Ed and Joe

Everyone has read a few "Me and Joe" stories, right? In Sporting Classics, Gray's, perhaps more. How would you like to LIVE a Me and Ed and Joe story? A small group of lucky folks will enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity.. The first twelve persons to register can rub elbows and hear the straight talk from two living legends of trout fishing, Joe Humphreys and Ed Shenk. Their stories and comments of a combined fishing experience of nearly 150 years will astound and amaze you. *Registration includes the popular and robust Allenberry lunch buffet and each attendee will receive Oral History Recordings of Shenk and Humphreys produced by the PFFMA.*

**\$100.00—Noon—2pm
Sadler Room—Fairfield Hall**



Creating a Fly Fishing "Bucket List"

Stop dreaming about six-pound brook trout, four-foot long pike, and trophy redfish, and put them on your "to do" list! Outdoor writer Ed Jaworowski, who has taken 100 species via fly, will share some of his experiences from Alaska to Iceland, Northern Canada to Tierra del Fuego. This workshop will cover destinations, some exotic, some close to home, some expensive, some reasonable, and discussion of various species and advice on fishing, flies, gear, casting, fighting fish, travel, even photo tips. *Bonus: The newly-released TFO 9', 5-weight, four-piece "BVK" flyrod will be given away to one of the attendees by random drawing.*

**\$35.00—1:00-3:00 pm
Club Lounge—Meadow Lodge**



Caddisfly Jewelry Workshop

What do caddisflies, gemstones, TV's Animal Planet and National Geographic Magazine have in common? Answer: Kathy Stout and Caddisfly Jewelry. Kathy has developed a simulated stream environment with crushed gemstones for caddisfly larvae, native to her home in the Appalachians. The caddisflies do the rest of the work and Kathy transforms the beautiful cases into unique jewelry. Kathy will explain how it's done, jewelry will be for sale. Components will also be on sale for attendees to create their own unique piece of jewelry.

Each attendee will receive a Caddisfly case charm and light refreshments will be included.

**\$20.00—1:00-3:00 pm
Lehman Room—Fairfield Hall**

