



## Newsletter November 2009

### November Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>

The November meeting will be  
Thursday, **November 19th at 7:30**  
**P.M.** We will have the annual turkey

(and other good stuff) raffle. Bob Lynch  
will give a slide show on his trip to Alaska  
this past summer.

### Fly Raffle

The annual raffle will be part of the  
November meeting. According to  
tradition some fine turkeys will be the  
major prizes. As a special prize we'd like  
each member to donate their favorite fly  
for fishing the club pond. You do not  
need to have tied the fly; you just need to

recommend it. We'll raffle off the  
collection as part of the turkey raffle. So  
open up those fly boxes and let's see what  
catches the trout in the pond. Any other  
fishing related donations to the raffle  
would be welcome.

### New House

At the October meeting we discussed a  
local developers proposal to build a new  
house across the pond from the  
clubhouse. We heard about this when we  
received notice of a hearing before the  
Needham Conservation Commission (the  
club was notified as an abutter). Several  
members attended the hearing. No  
determination was made about the project  
at the hearing. At the October meeting a  
motion was carried that the president will  
appoint a committee of members to

monitor this process and to represent the  
club's interests. The members of the  
committee will be announced at the  
November meeting. We could use the  
help of any member with experience in  
legal and environmental matters. If you  
have this experience please contact Jon  
Cave. The latest word is that the house  
project has been delayed, but we need to  
keep on top of this to make sure our  
interests are represented.

### Membership Renewal 2010

The board of directors has decided to  
keep the 2010 dues at \$125 for regular and  
\$75 for junior members. The invoices for  
next year will be mailed in December.

The club is great bargain in these tough  
times. We urge you to renew early in the  
year. Think of your membership as a  
Christmas gift that you give to yourself.

## Property Maintenance

Richard Marashlian has been going a great job of cutting the grass. We owe thanks to the person who cleaned up some

downed tree limbs recently. The limbs fell in a recent storm and have been cleaned up. Thank you, whoever you are.

## Jointed Soft Hackle Streamers

By Bob Lynch



A white and olive jointed soft hackle streamer

The jointed soft hackle streamer is a variation on Jack Gartside's soft hackle streamer. It has some similarities to a tube fly as well. I started tying them this spring and so far I've caught striped bass and silver salmon on flies of this type. This fly design has three strengths: It has a lot of action in the water (more than an un-jointed fly of the same length), it is a large fly with a short-shanked hook which reduces the fish's leverage when trying to dislodge the hook, and the connections among the components are very strong.

The basis of the fly is a chassis made of three components: a hook, a split ring and heavy wire. The wire is called "hard wire" – it's a stainless steel wire used for offshore fishing (especially for sharks). The wire is fairly easy to shape using pliers, but it is very strong. I use the 220 lb test wire made by Mallin.

By using split rings to connect the pieces, you get a fly that is very flexible and as strong as the split rings. This is stronger than a joint made where the parts are tied or glued to the hooks. You can also make flies with multiple segments that are chained together. Using two wire segments with a hook makes a great looking black eel pattern.

The wire body segments are made by cutting off a piece of hard wire slightly longer than twice the length of the finished segment. Using needle-nose pliers, bend the wire so it's shaped like a paper clip (see the photo below). To secure the ends of the wire and form the under-body of the fly, place one of the bent ends of the wire in the vise. Use heavy thread (I use Kevlar) to tie down the ends of the bent wire. Don't worry if the segment is not perfectly straight. I

think a little bend makes it wobble more in the water. Coat the thread with Crazy Glue or some other sort of super glue. You can add lead eyes for weight by tying them between the sides of wire before you tie the wire closed.

I make each segment with a tail of flashabou or other flashy material. The body of the fly is made of marabou feathers wrapped around the shank. I usually make the fly in two colors, a body color and a collar of a contrasting color. The fly in the picture is one I tied for striped bass, a white body with an olive collar. This is an impressionistic baitfish fly. The silver salmon in Alaska were

partial to pink and I had success with a pink body with a purple collar.

After the segments are tied, you connect them with the split rings. It's helpful to use split-ring pliers to do this, but you can use your fingernails to pry the ring apart to thread the segments onto the ring.

The basic components are:

Hook: Any standard or short shank hook

Segments: Mallin hard wire, 220 lb

Connectors: split rings size #3 or # 4 30 lb test

Tail: Flashabou (silver or color to match the body)

Body: Marabou feathers spiral wrapped to cover the hook and wire segments



The chassis for the jointed soft hackle streamer

## Fishing Report

Fishing in the club pond has been very good. Some good-sized trout up to 20 inches have been landed. In the weeks after fall opening day the trout were very interested in baitfish patterns. In fact, fish were occasionally spotted breaking on

some of the resident shiners!. Streamers of many kinds were very effective for several weeks. In the last week the fish have become more interested in insects. Small wet flies and emergers have started taking fish more than streamers.

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