



## Newsletter November 2010

### November Meeting on the 18th

The November meeting will be Thursday, November 18th at 7:30. This meeting will include dinner in the form of a variety of cold cuts for sandwiches. We will have the annual turkey and more raffle which is

always a lot of fun. Raffle item donations are welcome

### Membership List

At the May meeting, we discussed a proposal to make a list of members available to all club members. This will allow members to keep in contact with each other more easily. The club decided to distribute the membership list with telephone numbers, email addresses and street addresses to members. The list is being mailed (emailed) with the November newsletter to members. The

club will *not* post the list on the internet. Junior members are not listed.

If you see any errors, please contact Bob Lynch at [boblnc1@yahoo.com](mailto:boblnc1@yahoo.com) or (781) 449-3694.

This list is only for the personal, private use of members.

### Fly Tying Sessions

At the October meeting, the club decided to host monthly fly tying instruction. With the fishing slowing down, the tying season is starting. Now is the time to get ready for next spring. These are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the club house. Roy

Swartz and Bob Rifchin are sharing their considerable skill and knowledge of fly tying. The first meeting was on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roy demonstrated Picket Pins and Hornbergs. The members who attended found the instruction very helpful. **The session next will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## Favorite Flies



This is the first of a series of articles on favorite flies. As the fishing season winds down, the fly tying season starts up, and we become interested in new flies for next season. If you have a fly you'd like to share, please write it up and it can appear in a future newsletter.

This month's fly is one of my favorites for fishing the club pond. The sassy cat is an old-fashioned wet fly. I don't know when or where it originated but it is documented in *Trout* by Ray Bergman in 1938 (on fly plate No. 8). I altered the pattern a little bit by changing the red elements to orange, so I call my version of the fly the orange sassy cat. The original pattern uses a red tail and red cheeks instead of orange. This original pattern is very much like a wet fly version of a light edson tiger streamer.

I sometimes alter the pattern for easier tying by substituting schlappen fibers for the quill wing. This version is quicker to tie but it doesn't look quite as elegant as the quill wing when it leaves the vise. Once in the water, the trout show no preference for the quill wing or the schlappen-winged version.

I've caught fish using this fly in every month I've fished the pond. I use it almost any time but the orange sassy cat works best when the fish are not focused on a particular type of prey, usually earlier and later in the season. This fly is very good when the water is off-color and visibility is poor, because the yellow wing is easy to see. When there is a lot of surface activity due to a midge hatch, a more imitative fly is often better. I've had the most success with this fly when there are occasional swirls on the surface from cruising fish. The fly is fished by retrieving in strips of varying lengths to vary the speed of retrieve. Sometimes a fast retrieve gets very hard strikes, but sometimes a slower retrieve is what he fish want. I have also caught fish when the fly was not moving, but that is unusual.

So if you are looking for something a little different that catches fish, give the orange sassy cat a try.

**Orange Sassy Cat**

Hook: Wet fly sizes 8 – 12

Thread: Black

Tail: Orange hackle fibers

Body: Peacock herl

Throat: Yellow hackle or schlappen

Wing: Yellow Quill

Cheeks: Orange hen neck feathers, one on each side of the wing.

I reinforce the peacock herl body by including a piece of thread with the herl.

For the wing, I use dyed turkey quills because they are large and easy to work with, cheap and easy to obtain and they hold up pretty well in the water. You could use duck, goose or swan quills instead. If using schlappen fibers for the wing, just peel off a about an inch of the fibers from the stem and lash them to the top of the hook.

**Tying notes**

I usually use a Mustad 3906B #10, it also looks good on a small salmon hook.

For the orange feathers I use a hen neck dyed cock of the rock.

## Fishing Report

The fishing is getting tougher, but fish are being caught. Most fish are being caught on small flies (# 16 – 18) that are fished just under the surface as midge emergers. Darker flies seem to work best, but a little flash in the fly can help. The fish are

feeding along the leaf lines that are formed when the wind blows leaves to one part of the pond. This concentrates the available surface food in these areas as well as the leaves.

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