

The

# FLYRODDER



*The Flyrodder*  
is a monthly publication of  
The Long Island Flyrodders, Inc.  
*Editor, In Memorium*  
Gian Padovani

PUBLISHED BY



*This Month's Meeting*  
*January 7, 2003*

**Morty Schneiderman, Editor**

90-60 Union Turnpike  
Glendale, NY 11385  
*Fly Rodder@aol.com*  
*MortyS@email.lifr.org*

**Ed Conte**  
Circulation Manager

The Long Island Flyrodders  
meet at 8:00 PM on the  
first Tuesday of each Month  
at the: **Levitown VFW Hall**  
**55 Hickory Lane**  
(North of Hempstead Turnpike  
& West of Jerusalem Avenue)

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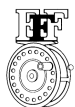
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God Bless America

Fly Tying Demonstration  
with  
***Glen Mikkelsen***



## President's message

January is the time of the year that we reflect on the past year and look forward to and make plans for the New Year. Some of us even make New Year's Resolutions. My first resolution this year is not to go fishing until all of my housework is done. My second resolution is to allow my wife to watch the Home and Garden Channel instead of forcing her to watch fishing shows. My third resolution is to get rid of all my fishing magazines. Now that my wife has finished reading over my shoulder as I write this, let me tell you my real resolutions. I want to get as many new people involved in planning trips and other club activities as possible. You can help by just coming to the trip-planning meeting. It will be held before the January meeting at 6:00. There will be pizzas for all that attend. Come and see how you can help our club.

All clubs need to keep changing to keep up with the times. Why not consider running for the board or running as an elected official? We are always looking for new ideas. We will be taking nominations

at the January and February meetings.

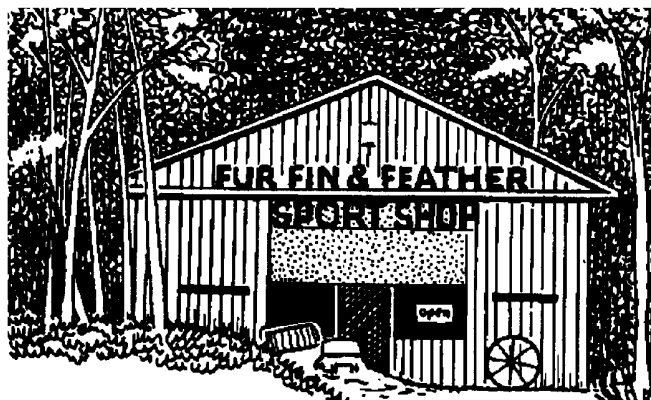
January is also time for the fishing show. If you would like to buy a discount ticket to the **Somerset Show** in Somerset New Jersey on **January 24, 25, 26**, please see me at the meeting. We have a limited number of these tickets. Only one ticket per person and it is first come first serve.

In December we started our **Fly Tying Nights**. We will have three more on **January 14, February 11, and March 11**. The cost is \$12.00 and includes dinner with tax and tip included. Call me for more information at (516) 536-1418. You **must** call me if you want to come.

The January meeting will be our **Fly Tying Demonstration**. Some of our best fly tyers will be showing their special flies and how to tie them. Our guest fly tyer will be **Glen Mikkleson** one of the premier fly tyers on Long Island. If you like, you can buy some of his flies.

Remember to make being an active member of the Fly Rodders one of your New Year's Resolution.

Tight Lines,  
Paul



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# For Your Nymphormation

by Lee Weil

## Tie Night Latin Style

Well, it's now official! The 2002/2003 Long Island Flyrodder Winter Tie Night series is under way. Thanks to some arrangements made by **Paul McCain** we had a great place to gather and the first session was a huge success.

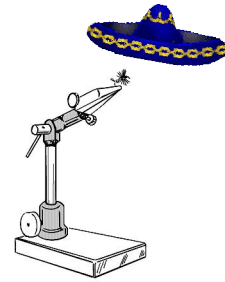
There was a good turnout of tying junkies. Everyone managed to find the restaurant without problems; I just followed the LIFR sticker on the truck in front of me. It started right on schedule, and some early birds had their vises set up and were well under way when I arrived at 7:30. Plenty of elbow room and electric outlets made for good tying conditions, in fact the overhead lighting was

sufficient to allow me to forego setting up the lamp I had brought along. After tying a few damsel flies I worked up an appetite just in time for the buffet which was comprised of an assortment of delicious Mexican nosh food including steak quesadillas, baby back ribs, chicken fingers and other delicacies that I didn't have room to sample.

After all that food we were re-inspired and put our noses to the grindstone (or vises) to tie more flies. Before we knew it, and all too soon, it was time to pack up our tools and sweep up the feathers and bits of flash. Time flies when you're tying flies.

Those who showed up

to sit as spectators were convinced to bring their vises to next month's session. I think I speak for all those who attended when I say it was a great way to spend a few hours on a winter night, trading patterns, materials and tying tips. So if you're an F.F.F.F. (fellow feather and fuzz freak), drop by and tie one on with us, and be sure to bring your appetite.



## Duck Season Means Soft Hackle Feathers by Tom Kilfoil

Duck season means the chance to get a good supply of feathers ideal for soft hackle fly patterns. Most fly tiers have used mallard and wood duck flank feathers for tying, but they really miss a bet by not collecting some teal, widgeon, and sprig flank feathers as well.

Ask your waterfowl hunting friends to save you the flank feathers off the male of each of these duck species. Save them in ziplock bags. Put these zip lock bags in your freezer for a week to kill any bugs that might be amongst the feathers. Next step is to strip off the fuzzy hackles leaving the barred ends. Trim off the stems to a manageable length, and separate the feathers by color shades and length. Put the sorted feathers in small zip lock bags for future use. Notice the nice brown colors.

One of the best techniques I have seen for using these feathers for soft hackle patterns is to get hold of the hackles near the stem, about 1/16-inch worth on either side of the stem. Pull the other hackles back towards the butt end, leaving the tip hackles exposed and easy to get to. With a fine scissors, cut the tip hackles off at the stem then pull the remaining hackle forward into their original position. The feather is now ready to use. By the way, not all of the feathers are ideal for this preparation, but don't throw them out. They can be used for tails and legs of many patterns.

So don't forget to ask your duck hunting friends to save those feathers for you, and have fun tying these great patterns. Practice your tying skills and make up a few extra for our club's raffles.

*(continued from preceding page)*

**Editor's note:** Readers should go to the PFF Website to really gain an understanding of how to tie a soft hackle fly. Tom's pictures of both materials and the process he uses to tie the flies are terrific. [www.peninsulaflyfishers.org](http://www.peninsulaflyfishers.org)

## **Tie A Soft Hackle Fly**

### **Step 1**

To tie a soft-hackle pattern, prepare a ribbed body with or without a tail. I like to make a blunt end to the forward portion of the body, so when I tie in the hackle it gives a nice flare to the feathers.

### **Step 2**

Take a prepared feather and pinch it against the body from both sides and take two soft wraps of thread around the hackle.

### **Step 3**

Now pull the stem of the feather forward until the hackle length is just where you want it and tie it down. Trim off the rest. I have my hackle go to the back of the body for tailless patterns and to the hook point on patterns with a tail.

### **Step 4**

I finish off my soft hackle flies usually with a dubbed head, with colors from light tan all the way to black. This finished fly has a green floss body, copper ribbing, widgeon hackle, with light hare's ear dubbed head.

by **Tom Kilfoil** of the  
Peninsula Fly Fishers of Belmont, California,  
courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire

## **BUYING A NU2U ROD**

*by Wayne Taylor*

Some things to ponder prior to purchasing a new2u fly rod. Foremost, on what fish and water will the rod be used? Consider your strength and coordination. What is your fishing experience? Correct choice of line weight, rod length and action depend on this evaluation. You want a good casting and fish fighting tool. You want good value for your money. So, what makes a quality rod? Generally speaking the more expensive the rod, the better the quality of material used in the guides, reel seat, and grip. For guides, a rule of thumb is one guide, not including the tip-

top, for each foot of rod length. Fewer guides permit the line to sag and slap on the rod, creating more friction when casting. There is a right size for guides, too. Very small guides will create more friction and very large guides will permit more sag and slapping. The number of stripping guides varies. Lighter weight rods need only one stripping guide, while heavier weight rods should be equipped with two.

Should you have an up- or downlocking reel seat? Most fisher people prefer uplocking. If you wish to hold your rod near the reel, a downlocking seat subjects your hand to agitation at the juncture of the cork and the reel seat. On heavier weight rods it is nice to have a double

*(continued on page 6)*



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# BLUEGILL

by  
Gregory Kozlowski

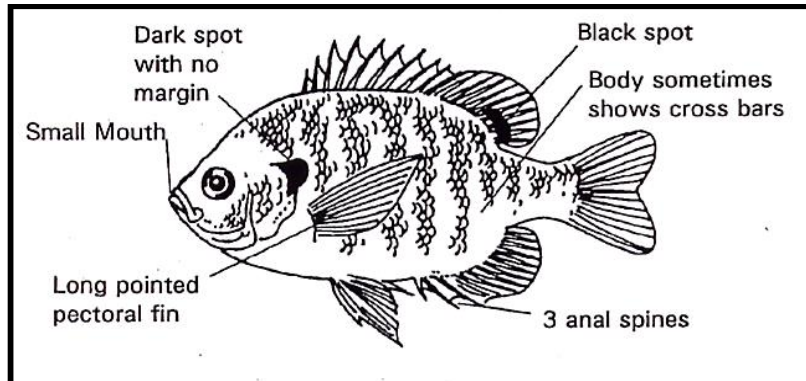
If you were to ask most fishermen, "What was the first fish you ever caught?" they would probably tell you that it was a bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*). This plentiful, hungry fish has introduced most people to the joys of fishing and provides hours of fun for young and old alike.

Surprisingly, the bluegill is not native to Long Island, but you would never know it now. It has been introduced into most Long Island ponds and has become an important part of the fishery community. Long Island ponds and streams are ideal for the bluegill, which prefers standing or slow moving water where there is vegetation or other cover.

Bluegills are a small fish, with the adults averaging 4 to 8 inches in length; however, they can get bigger. The state record is 2 lbs 8 oz, and 2 lb fish have been caught on Long Island. Bluegills have a greenish-olive color on their backs that fades out to a pale color on their stomachs. Often, bluegills have several dark bands on their sides. Bluegills have a blue-black opercular flap and a dark dusky spot on their rear dorsal fin. These characteristics help distinguish it from pumpkinseed sunfish (*Lepomis gibbosus*), which have a red margin on the opercular flap and no dusky spot on the rear dorsal fin. Often, there are color differences between the two species; however, color (except for the opercular flap) is an unreliable characteristic.

Bluegills spawn from May until July in shallow water 1 to 3 feet deep. Usually, bluegills nest in colonies that can include hundreds of nests. The males fan out nests 8 to 12 inches in diameter on sandy or firm mud bottoms. The male then attracts a female bluegill to spawn with. After spawning, the male aggressively guards the nest. At this time, they will strike almost anything to defend its young.

Bluegills are a fun fish to catch because of plentiful numbers and fighting ability. On light tackle, the bluegill can put up a good fight, especially when it turn its broad side perpendicular to the angler,



making it hard to reel in. They can be caught with a variety of techniques, including worms, jigs and flies. A size 6 to 8 size long shank hook is best when fishing with bait. Use as small a bobber as possible to reduce resistance for the fish.

When using jigs, they should be 1/32 oz. Small nymphs or poppers are best when fly fishing.

Whatever the technique, bluegills are a lot of fun to catch. Don't forget to try a few for the table. Even though they are a small fish, they are very tasty. Enjoy!

Rewritten with permission from the NYSDEC.  
Greg Kozlowski is a Region 1 fisheries biologist for the NYSDEC and is the *Sweet Water Angler* editor



## Streamside Panfish

- 4 - 6 panfish  
(bluegill, crappie, rock bass etc.)
- 4 - 6 strips of bacon
- 1 lemon
- ½ of an onion, chopped fine
- ½ tomato, chopped
- Lemon pepper
- Foil

Lay out enough foil to seal in the panfish. Place panfish on foil and sprinkle heavily with lemon pepper. Lay strips of bacon along the side of each fish and squeeze lemon juice on top. Add chopped onion and tomato and fold over foil, rolling up all edges to make air tight. Take sealed package and place directly over live coals. Approximate cooking time should be 10 to 12 minutes, or until meat flakes easily

(continued from page 6)

locking screw system.

Cork is preferred for the handle, as theoretically it feels warmer in cold weather and cooler in warm weather. Cork doesn't get overly slick when wet, and it has great cushioning properties. Check the cork for quality. Are there any soft or loose spots? The less filler, the better. Shape and size of the handle are a matter of personal preference. Is the grip sized right and comfortably shaped for your hand for casting and fish fighting?

Next consider the workmanship and overall aesthetics of the rod. Most manufacturers polish their rods upon removal from the furnaces to eliminate any rough spots and the thread used to hold the graphite on the mandrels. (One company does not polish their rods. Know which company that is?) Well-epoxyed, short, thread wraps extending just off the foot of the guides is the order of the day. The more thread and epoxy, the more weight, which dampens the rod's action.

Speaking of which, I recommend that one check the action of the rod. Most people pick up a rod and shake it several times, and that is that. Here's the way to really learn something about the rod. Hold the rod firmly, parallel to the floor, and whip the rod with some vigor. Watch where the rod flexes the most. If the rod bends in the upper one-third, you know that the rod is considered fast action; in the middle, it is medium action. If the rod bends down into the butt section, and you can even feel the handle bend in your hand, you know that the action of the rod is considered slow. When you have a likely candidate, give it the real test. Take the rod, equipped with reel and line, to a pond for some casting, and check for these qualities. (Fishing is not a good way to make these evaluations.)

Start with balance. Is the fully equipped rod tip heavy or butt heavy? Cast the rod for feel. Does the action suit your casting stroke?

The rod should perform a number of tasks well. Test it thoroughly. Roll cast. Pick up thirty-five feet of line from the water and lay it out in a different direction. See that it mends and controls line on the water easily and accurately. Turn over a leader with a large fly, and present it with some delicacy at long distances. Will the rod deliver a fly accurately seventy feet and beyond? Does it shoot line easily?

Will the rod load sufficiently with thirty to thirty-five feet of line off the rod tip for quick pick up and shoot? Try to form tight loops to get line speed and distance. Does the rod generate high speed for quick, powerful delivery into the wind? Is there enough strength in the butt section to pressure a running fish? Could you cast repeatedly for long periods without fatigue?

If in your opinion the rod fulfills all the above criteria, then just possibly you have found the rod that is for you.

(by **Wayne Taylor** of the Peninsula Fly Fishers of Belmont, California, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire)

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This will take you to the Sweet Water Angler webpage.  
For other information on fishing Long Island, go to:  
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg1/reg1bof.html>

For the Bureau of Fisheries homepage, go to:  
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/index.html>

**For fly tying classes, contact:**  
**Herb Schneiderman: (718) 468-5519.**  
**For casting classes, contact:**  
**Herman Abrams: (516) 593-6024**



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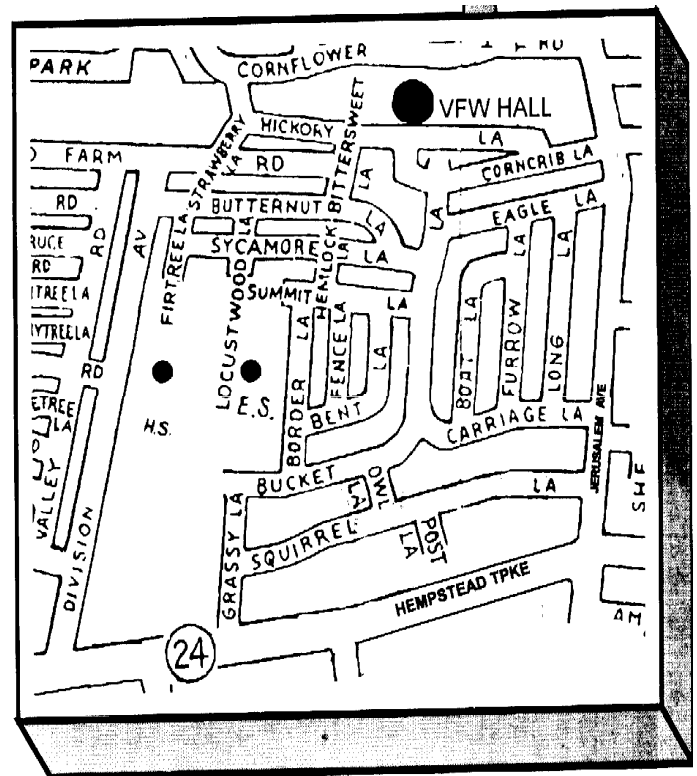
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## LONG ISLAND FLYRODDERS COMING EVENTS January - 2003

- January 7      **General Meeting**  
Fly tying demonstration  
with Glen Mikkelsen
- January 14      **Fly Tying Night**  
For details and directions  
Contact: Paul McCain (516-536-1418)
- January 16      **Board Meeting**  
7:30 PM at the Levittown VFW Hall
- January  
24, 25, & 26      **Somerset Fly Fishing Show**  
Contact: Paul McCain for Tickets and Info  
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