

# Flatland Fly Fishers



W I C H I T A , K A N S A S

Volume Ten Issue One

January 2005

## President's Line

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Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility of serving the fly club this coming year. We have a strong team and we have received many good ideas from you for making the club even more responsive to your needs. The new Board and I especially want to thank the outgoing team of officers and directors for their dedicated service and for the progress made in 2004. Particularly notable are the efforts given to the newsletter, the fly swaps, the many program presentations, and to fishing in general. Our desire is to build upon this fine base that has been established. It is also our desire to draw upon the talents of the individual club members. There is a wealth of expertise, experiences, and insight from many different perspectives.

My main effort as president this coming year will be to stay open to new ideas, to follow up on tasks, to communicate, and to help provide structure for the various programs and activities in which club members would like to participate. A few of the ideas, directions, and pursuits for 2005 include the following:

- Review the non-profit status of the club;
- Renew efforts for seeking club donations both monetary and in equipment items;
- Promote more educational and community activities;
- Maintain the regular club activities such as fly tying, raffles, programs, the picnic, outings, and conservation efforts;
- Increase the number of club fishing events;
- Revisit the idea of affiliating with the Fly Fishing Federation;
- Provide opportunities for club members to get to know each other;
- Develop a Kansas Fish Check-off list;
- Enlist a group of advisors to the Board to help expand some of the club's existing activities;
- Design a Fishing Forecast & Summary for the newsletter;
- Set up programs that will bring women into the sport of flyfishing;
- Continue upgrading the Website; and,
- Keep rebuilding the club newsletter.

Over everything else, we want to serve the club members. We will be receptive to new ideas and encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns with the Board. It is understandable with today's busy schedules that people are careful not to over-commit to long-term tasks. With this in mind, I am trying to create a number of smaller jobs that would take minimal commitment but which would offer substantial assistance to the smooth running of club activities. Many hands make light work.

Again, thank you for your support of the Flatland Fly Fisher's; it appears that we have an exciting year ahead of us.

Bill White

## Calendar of Events

## Jan

2nd – One Fly Tournament at the Slough

6th – Club Meeting

13th – Board Meeting

## Membership Notice!

If you do not renew by Jan. 15, 2005 this will be your last newsletter.

## Mail your check to:

Eric Schmidt  
130 S. Volutsia  
Wichita, Ks. 67211

Make payable to Flatland Fly Fishers.

\$25.00 Individual

\$35.00 Family.

## 2005 Club Officers

President	Bill White	(316) 683-3723
Vice President	Everett Hodges	(316) 282-0836
Membership	Eric Schmidt	(316) 618-9595
Secretary	Bud Johnson	(316) 838-9345
Treasurer	Bill Ethridge	(316) 838-1634
Activities	Neal Hall	(316) 838-4056
Programs &		
Education	Steve Ryan	(316) 265-5551
Conservation	Ken McCloskey	(316) 284-0762
Website	Songbin Chon	(316) 689-8319
Editor	Mike Carr & Steve Webb	(316) 683-2430 (316) 733-8531



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## Items For Sale

Orvis Pro Guide Stocking Foot Waders  
Size XXL Tall, Brand new, never used  
\$180 David Tilson 316-721-6905

Don't forget, the URL of the club's web page is:

<http://www.flatlandflyfishers.org/>

## Notice on Monthly Newsletter items:

Cutoff date for items to be placed in the newsletter is now the 15th of the month prior to the month published.

# Next Meeting is January 6th

## Fish Dictators

If fish are small-minded, why do we, the species with the superior brain, follow them so mindlessly? Why is it so difficult for us to catch a few? Why do we adhere to tackle and methods that are honored beyond reason simply for tradition's sake?

At one time, maybe less today, it wasn't fly-fishing unless it was "dry-fly" fishing. So people would pass up gorgeous fish because it might be dishonorable to approach them with anything less than something floating on the surface. If a person "nymphed", they were said to be "dredging for fish" and were readily snubbed.

In the early 1930's a hobo to fly-fishing started catching some really big fish on a regular basis. The dry fly purists of the day began taking note to what this fellow, Jim Leisenring, was doing. He was fishing with almost a nothing of a fly that traveled just beneath the surface where a trout could pick it off without having to greatly expose itself. Additionally, he developed a casting and retrieval technique that would cause the fly to suddenly rise toward the surface before the trout's very eyes. No trout waiting for food would hesitate and be aced-out of something that looked like a meal about to escape.

Now Jim was a realist. He had the novel idea of fishing with dry flies when fish were hitting dries and fishing with flymphs (small wet fly nymphs) when fish were not feeding at the surface. In his book, *The Art Of Tying The Wet Fly*, there is a photo (in the days of "Catch-And-Eat") of Jim with his trout limit, the smallest of which was probably 18 to 20 inches. He was often enlisted to supply food for the camp.

Leisenring did not write his book, as such; rather, it was transcribed by one of Jim's fly fishing student's, Vernon (Pete) Hidy who also added his own take on things, & *Fishing The Flymph*. Both portions were published in 1971 and included a host of crappy photographs that offered very little insight into how these flypmhs were constructed. Fortunately, there were some excellent pen and ink illustrations, which saved the day. Also there were good material lists for a number of fly patterns. Of course, I was attracted to these patterns because of their use of traditional materials such as silk, snipe, woodcock, jackdaw, mole, and Inuit "otter" (AKA seal), among other things.

Some of the traditional patterns and clear recipes found in this volume include: March brown, Tup's nymph, brown or red hackle, grey hackle, old blue dun, blue dun hackle, coachman, black gnat, hare's ear, iron blue dun, iron blue wingless, light snipe and yellow, pale evening dun, Doctor Lyte palmer, Stewart's black spider, cowdung, great red spinner, alder, watery dun, and stonefly.

An important emphasis of this volume is the use of sparse fly construction techniques. Hidy quotes from Negley Farson's book, *Going Fishing*, to stress the idea that less is better. "It was here that I used the unnamed fly tied by the Captain. It was a whitish, hackled arrangement, with a grey body; and I fished it until there was little left of it except the bare hook.. Its effectiveness increased with its bedraggled condition. Night after night I clumped back to the hotel, almost stupefied by my good luck – the miracle of that fly."

Although it is probably out of print (readily available on the Internet), I heartily recommend *The Art Of Tying The Wet Fly & Fishing The Flymph* (Leisenring and Hidy). I am fortunate enough to have my dad's copy. This volume has probably taught me as much about fly tying as my father did, and he taught me a lot. The fishing advice was equally as valuable.

Bill White

## Minutes for December's Officers Meeting

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Dec. 9, 2004

Started 7:15 P.M.

### In Attendance:

Ken McCloskey, Ryan Allred, Bill White, Leonard Malmstrom, Steve Ryan, Cecil Maier, Mike Carr, Galen Brown, Steve Webb, Neal Hall, Everett Hodges, Songbin Chon

### Old Business:

One Fly for Jan. 2, 2005

Motion made by Galen Brown, second by Neal Hall

To allow those who will tie their own fly to start tying five minutes before the actual start time.

Motion Passed

Winter Program

Motion made by Bill White, second by Leonard Malmstrom

To set the entrance to the program at Free to current members, \$25.00 For nonmembers, and free to Other club members with Proof of Current membership in another fly club.

Motion Passed

Just For Women Fly Fishing Clinic

The clinic has been scheduled for March 18-18, 2005 Fee will be \$50.00 per participant.

### New Business:

Discussion concerning the Editor position and the newsletter was held. Mike Carr, and Steve Webb have volunteered to fill the position.

Tax Exempt Status

Motion made by Everett Hodges, second by Neal Hall

To allow Bill White to investigate 501 (c) 3 for Flatland Fly Fishers.

Motion Passed

Bill White presented an Issues List for Officers

Becoming tax exempt as per IRS 501 (c) 3: Finance and Budget Committee

Promotion of education for members and community

Conservation for community

General community service

Winter speaker for 2006

Advisory Council: Stuart Winigar, Dell Rey, Brian Leslie, Don Snyder, Kendal Rush, and other interested members

Federation of Fly Fishers

Short Biographies

Kansas Fish Species Check-off List

Fishing Forecast and Summary

Website Upgrades

Continue Newsletter Progress

Development of a Youth Program

Bill White requested Officers Reports from 2004

### Adjournment:

Motion made by Leonard Malmstrom, second by Ryan Allred

Motion Passed

## Single Fly Contest

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**Where: Sedgwick County Park, Horseshoe Shelter**

**When: January 2, 2005 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

This is our annual fishing contest where you get to compete for prizes in three different categories:

- Fastest 5 fish caught
- Longest length of 5 fish
- Biggest fish

All this, while fishing with just a single fly. Once you lose that fly you are more than welcome to continue to fish, but will no longer be competing in the contest.

If you tie flies then you need to bring your vise and the material to tie the fly you are going to use. If you don't tie, just come ready to fish. You can start tying your fly at 8:30. At 8:35 we will let everyone head to the stream to start fishing.

There will be separate prizes in the fastest 5 fish caught category for both the people who tied their fly and those who didn't.

For a \$10 fee you can try to win a very nice brown trout picture for the longest fish caught. Otherwise the contest is free to members of the club.

**DO NOT FORGET TO BUY YOUR 2005 FISHING LICENSE AND TROUT STAMP!**

### First Time With a New Rod

The sky was overcast, with a light drizzle falling from the sky as I walked to the stream. It had been almost a month since I had fished this pool last. Armed with a brand new flyrod and expecting to fish nymphs, I had brought only one flybox with me. After all, I had reasoned, this was an outing for the single purpose of trying out my newest flyrod. Arriving at the pool with which I had intended to start, I paused and watched the surface for a few moments.

There! At the far bank was a rise! But, was it a trout or a bluegill? Another rise! This one under the spreading branches of a willow, not 15 paces from where I stood. That was definitely a trout! I've come at the right moment.

Quickly, I reached for my flybox, fumbling it open. And then it hit me. This was my nymph box. Maybe something in it would pass for whatever was hatching. I turned the divider and lying there loose was a single dry fly, a size 20 Black Gnat. Tying on the fly, I approached the pool from the upstream direction. Making a false cast to judge the distance, I laid the tiny fly on the water's surface. It looked huge out there by itself. That's when I realized that I had not seen a single insect come off the water. The drift finished untouched. Lifting the fly I made another cast. Still nothing. The third cast was halfway through its drift when I saw the fish rise to the fly. Then it dropped off, trailing the fly almost the rest of the way through the drift.

One more cast, I told myself, then I'll switch to a nymph. Again, halfway through the drift, the fish rose. This time the fish inhaled the tiny fly. Setting the hook, I played the fish, small though it was. Landing it, a respectable 8 1/2 incher, I thought to myself, "Now that the way to break in a new rod".

## Annual Report Summary 2004

**President: Ryan Allred** – Led general & board meetings. Passed along information to other officers and members. Promoted membership growth, helped develop Big Brothers/Big Sisters Pass It On, supported affiliation with the Kansas Wildlife Federation, and worked with the Single-Fly Competition and Slough Creek clean up.

**Vice President: Steve Ryan** – Worked to involve new club members in club activities, led if the president was absent, promoted talents of individuals, and helped with decision making during board meetings.

**Secretary: Cecil Maier** – Recorded the events of general and board meetings, helped keep a membership list, introduced kids to fishing, was active in conservation and programs, and provided information to other board members.

**Treasurer: Eric Schmidt** – As of 12/13/04 the club's financial balance was reported at \$1518.51 and several membership dues have been received since then.

**Membership Director: Galen Brown** – As of the beginning of 12/10/04 we had 55 new or renewed memberships. We have received several more dues payments since that time.

**Conservation Director: Dave Tilson** – No report available at time of publishing.

**Programs Director: Ken McClosky** – Organized 12 programs for monthly meetings, planned fishing clinics for Walk With Wildlife, helped with 2 fishing clinics for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and developed the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic.

**Education Director: Bill Ethridge** – The Education Director's duties were merged into the duties of the Program Director.

**Activities Director: Neal Hall** – Designed, helped with, or promoted the Single-Fly contest, Sport, Boat & Travel Show presentations, Women's Fishing Clinic, Fall River Outing, Salida Trip, and the club picnic.

**Editor Director: Leonard Malmstrom** – Completely recreated the newsletter and coordinated with each of the board members.

**Website Director: Songbin Chon** – Created By-laws page, updated information such as: front pages, programs, meetings, calendar, newsletter, contests and programs, activities, photos, membership information, and site directions. As of 12/15/04 the total number of pages maintained was 42.