

Valley Angler

Third Annual Pink Fly Contest

by Bill Thompson

Three years ago my wife, Janet, came up with an idea to have a Pink Fly tying contest. The inspiration came from a pink streamer fly that I had tied for my, now, daughter in law Megg. The little streamer featured a wing of florescent pink. Like a lot of young ladies, Megg loves the color pink. In the process of working out the details for the contest it was decided that any funds raised from entry fees would be donated to a great organization by the name of Casting for Recovery.

I have mentioned Casting for Recovery in this column before, but for the record CFR holds fly fishing retreats for women recovering from breast cancer. This past fall Janet volunteered to teach at one of these events held by the Great Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Two local women were in attendance at this event. By all accounts the ladies had a great time.

The rules for the contest are simple. You tie a fly. The fly has lots of pink materials in it as the criteria for winning is the best use of pink. The fly is submitted to one of four fly shops participating in this year's contest along with a five dollar entry fee. You can tie as many pink flies as you like as long as each fly comes with the five bucks. On a side note you may tie as many flies, not necessarily pink, as you like to donate to CFR. We will be happy to collect them and send them along to them. All of the money raised is donated through the Orvis Company. Orvis has been kind enough to match our donations each year that we have held the contest. In the past two years we, along with Orvis, have raised just about \$3000.

All entries must be in one of the four fly shops by February 28th 2009. All the flies will be on display at the New Hampshire Fly Fishing Show in Pelham, NH. The dates for show are March 8th and 9th. This is a great little show held each year at the Pelham Rod and Gun Club. The show is hosted by the Merrimack Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter and the Pelham Rod and Gun Club. The flies will be judged at the show and the winners will be announced there as well.

This year we are going to try something a little different. In the past we have awarded a rod or a reel as a first and second prize. This year we are going to award a trophy for the top two spots and as a small added incentive a gift certificate to the North Country Angler.

Should you wish to enter a fly or two you may drop them off or mail them to the following participating Fly Shops:

Hanover Outdoors
17 ½ Lebanon St.
Hanover, NH 03755
(603-643-1263)

W. S. Hunter & Co.
113 Storrs St.
Concord, NH
(603-643-0880)

Eldridge Brothers Fly Shop
1480 US Route One
P. O. Box 69
Cape Neddick, ME 03902
(207-363-9269)

Or the North Country Angler right here in North Conway.

We have always had a lot of fun with this and the entries have always been nothing less than spectacular. We hope that if you are a fly tier that you will take the time enter and help support a great organization, Casting for Recovery.

See you on the river.