



Sussex Branch Newsletter



MARCH 2010

ANNUAL DINNER **17th April 2010**

Book your tickets now! Don't be disappointed this year. It's at **The Dyke Golf Club, Seddlescombe Road, Devil's Dyke, Brighton**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Dress is lounge suit or smart casual, and tickets are **£25.00** each.

If you've mislaid your form – ring John Burt on 01273 695164 or get one from Roy Gurney.

FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2010

Don't forget to get your entries in!

The Intermediate class is open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open, and anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level.

Closing date for entries is **1st April 2010**.

WANTED – TROPHIES!

Don't forget that anyone holding Branch trophies from 2009 should return them urgently to Roy Gurney as we need to engrave them ready for presentation at the Annual Dinner or the final evening get-together. We need a couple of weeks for the engraving and once again Easter intervenes – so **please** let us have them in good time.

FRANK DARRAH PAIRS

Please note that this prestigious Branch event has been arranged for **Sunday 9th May 2010**. Cost will be £37.50 which includes lunch-time beer, boat hire and fishing. This is an ideal day for both experienced reservoir anglers and newcomers wishing to experience this style of fishing. If you do not have a partner, John Plowman will arrange one for you. Just fill in the entry form and enjoy yourself!!

OUTINGS

Enclosed with this newsletter are the entry forms for this summer's outings. Most are finalised, but otherwise reserve your place with a deposit to the organiser as indicated. You will be kept informed as things are settled. Of course, if the date is changed and you cannot make it, your deposit will be refunded.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

As we gear up for the new season's fishing, don't forget to check all lines, leader loops and rod rings. Before the tying season ends I will be running sessions on Thursday evenings on how to replace rod rings and how to fix braided loops - see the programme for details.

Sometimes we are so concerned about casting long distances that we are guilty of forgetting the obvious: fish often stay close to the bank and only move away because of the disturbance caused by anglers. When you approach a new swim, do so carefully and make your first casts when standing ten yards back from the bank using as much cover as possible.

Next, try casting parallel to the bank both to the left and right. Don't be tempted to double haul to the horizon until you are absolutely certain there are no fish closer in. There are at least two of our members who regularly fish in this way and usually manage to catch the first fish of the day on guild outings. Give it a try - it works!

Also make a note in your diary for our end of season dinner on 17th April. This is an opportunity to say thank you to wives and friends who have tolerated your tying and fishing activities over the last twelve months.

Finally, at the end of session social on the 22nd April, I will provide food and soft drinks only. If you would like to bring wine or beer etc. there is no problem but please remember to bring your own glasses.

Tight lines

John Plowman.

SUSSEX PISCATORIAL

Sussex Piscatorial Society is one of the oldest angling clubs in the country (founded in 1891), and have a number of coarse and trout fisheries in Sussex where traditional angling methods are encouraged.

The trout section has three lakes, one near Heathfield and two just west of Steyning. They also have a stretch of the river Itchen in Hampshire.

Membership is £225.00 per annum (plus £50 initial one-off joining fee) which includes guest tickets making it exceedingly good value.

Anyone interested should contact **Bob Burbidge** (who is one of our members, and usually in attendance on Thursdays) on 01903 873878 who will give you full details. Alternatively, go to their website www.sussexpiscatorialsociety.co.uk where all will be revealed.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

As a member of the Flydressers' Guild you are covered for personal third party liability for up to £10 million through your subscription. The Branch also has similar cover for up to £5 million for events organized by the Branch (including the normal tying nights and demonstrations for instance).

Our insurers require us to advise them immediately following incidents in which they may have an interest, particularly incidents involving personal injury, and therefore any member who is involved in an incident whilst taking part in any Branch activity must immediately report the circumstances to the Secretary.

WEIL'S DISEASE

Whilst we are in a serious mood, and the fishing season is getting well under way, it might be wise to remind ourselves of the above. Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) is a bacterial infection carried in rats' urine, which contaminates water and the banks of lakes, rivers and ponds.

The early symptoms are similar to those of 'flu and normally start 3 to 19 days after exposure to contaminated water. Every year people die from this disease, which is unnecessary because it is easily treated if diagnosed in time.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!

There are a number of sensible precautions you can take:

- Cover any cuts, sores or scratches with waterproof plasters or gloves
- Disinfect any wounds that occur at the waterside
- Do not put your hand in your mouth after immersing in river water and never place bait or fishing line in your mouth
- Do not touch dead animals, especially rats
- If you develop 'flu-like symptoms that persist, tell your doctor that you may have been exposed to leptospirosis so the he/she can consider it in the diagnosis
- Do not leave food, ground bait or bait on the bankside.

After all that – enjoy yourself, keep safe and tight lines!!!

Peter Lapsley

We were very pleased to welcome Peter as our last speaker of the "season" – and what a fine presentation he treated us to! Some 40+ members heard of his favourite fishing venues and many had their first sight of the Falklands other than through war reports! It was fascinating to hear the history of how fishing developed in various areas of the world, and most of us can only envy his experiences whilst fishing these spots.

The second part of his presentation covered flies and presentation – and gave us all much food for thought on what we are about when tying on that "irresistible" pattern. His new book, "Pocket Guide to Matching the Hatch", written with Cyril Bennett, is due to be published in April, and looks like being a "must" for all fly fishers. Copies can be ordered pre-publication on Amazon.

The Orvis Country

Experience Day

Sunday 18th April 2010

Covering **farming, fishing, shooting and yurting**, the variety of the show is great.

The Fishing Experience

Have a go tuition; catch a trout with the help of our instructors.

- Improve your **casting** style with our experts.
- Visit our **Fly-Tying** Workshop.
- Enjoy **Fishing Demonstrations** from the masters of the sport.
- Paul Proctor, Justin Anwyll and Barry Welham.

Organisations present: Fly dressers Guild, Grayling Society, Salmon & Trout Association and the Wild Trout Trust

The Field sports Experience

- Crack a few **clays**, with our experts to guide you.
- Shoot our 50 bird-sporting **layouts**, with your own gun.
- Have a go at Archery & Air rifles
- Watch our **Falconry** Demonstration
- See how the **Bloodhounds** work a scent and catch their human quarry.

The Farming Experience

Have a go at **Tractor Driving**,

- Tour our working **Dairy Farm**,
- Identify **Tree Varieties** in our tree dedication wood.
- See the Kit that grows the Wheat to make the Bread.

The Farm Diversification Experience

Tour our Yurt Village & Self-Storage Facilities

Orvis Clearance Stock

Antique Tackle and Country Books.

Locally produced Ales & Ice Creams.

Crafts and much, much more.....!

Local Sausages and Burger Barbecue.

Entrance fee - £3.00 per person,

Children under 14 Free.

Please email– jamie@meonsprings.com if you would like update with the event and program nearer the time.

Waste not, want not!

It is reported that a rather unique dubbing spinner was brought in one evening by one of our members (who shall remain nameless). It was well made, being a very heavy rounded knob into which two wire hooks had been placed. On being questioned, it transpired that it was part of a worn out replacement hip and the owner said he believed in recycling! The Editor is trying not to limp.....

ACCREDITATION

To all who are aiming for Bronze and Silver awards

In order to attain accreditation at Bronze and Silver levels the branch is required to record your attendance to the tying classes and to establish your competency at that level. The first matter is being recorded by your instructors as you attend and you are required to submit examples of the patterns you have tied to prove your understanding and competency. We would ask that you let the instructors borrow the patterns you have tied so that we can comply with the second issue. If you have any concerns please speak to Paul Bond.

WEBSITE

Thanks to the sterling work put in by Mike Guest, the website is growing in stature – a number of members' flies are now in place and well worth a visit. We try to keep it up to date regards latest news – do check the “stop press” on the home page when we list things such as the cancellations due to weather and other last minute changes.

We still need more from YOU however – do let Mike have your special flies or suggestions for improving the site.

SUSSEX ANGLING SHOW

Ardingly Showground 8th and 9th May 2010

We are pleased to hear that the Sussex Angling Show is making a welcome return to the scene this year after a lapse of some years. We are hoping to have a stand at the show (negotiations are under way at the moment) for demonstration of our skills, but in the meantime make a note of the date as it is well worth a visit, especially if you are into coarse angling too.

Big fish? Eat your heart out!



LAKE ERIE STURGEON

This giant was caught at Two Creeks Conservation Area, Wheatley, Ontario (on Lake Erie) 19/11/2007
NO COMPUTER TRICK PHOTO HERE!

This sturgeon is still alive, worn out from the fight. They turned him loose after the photo, having weighed in at over 1,000 lbs and measured 11'1". It was 56" around the girth, and took over 6½ hours, and 4 dozen beers, for the four guys taking turns reeling it in....

Any sturgeon OVER five feet has to be released unharmed and cannot be removed from the water. They are brood/breeding stock and probably older than most of us.

PROGRAMME UPDATED

Now that the fishing programme is more or less settled, and our hard-working secretary, Paul Bond, has nailed some speakers for the next “season”, the latest programme of events is on the last page.

Should any amendments occur, the web-site will be continually updated to inform you, and of course they will be notified in the Newsletters

You will see that we have a welcome return of **Johan Klingberg** on 28th October, when he plans to hold a workshop – something not to be missed!

The following month, **Phil Waller** returns with a new presentation – no doubt related to his love of vintage tackle, but who knows.....

Remember, our speaker evening are open to all – do persuade your friends to come along too – all are welcome, and they might even join!!

LIBRARY

We are still looking for a replacement Librarian – not an onerous job – just logging in and out items borrowed by members from our stock of videos, DVDs, books etc. These are held at Patcham, so you don't have to carry them around with you, so please give some thought as to whether you can be of some help to the Branch.

Officers for next year

Whilst on the subject – it may seem a long way off, but at the AGM in December it will necessary appoint at least two new officers to replace retiring incumbents. Most important is **Chairman** so get your thinking hats on and decide who you would like to lead us next year. The other vacancy is **Competitions (and Outings) Secretary**, so if you have a candidate, or wish to volunteer, let one of the Committee know.

and Finally.....

The Editor is running out of steam! Rather, and more specifically, running out of material for the Newsletter. Unless more articles are received from you, the members, the Newsletter will dry up.

I am sure there are lots of tales, photos, hints and tips, gems of knowledge etc, etc, etc lying out there so let me have them urgently or there will be none next month!

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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Programme 2010

<u>April</u>	17 th (Saturday)	Annual Dinner - guest speaker - Brian Smart	John Burt
	22 nd (Thursday)	End of season gathering with prizegiving	
	25 th (Sunday)	Match v. Eastbourne F.F. – Arlington Reservoir, East Sussex	Bill Smith
<u>May</u>	8/9 th (Sat/Sun)	Sussex Angling Show – Ardingly Showground	
	9 th (Sunday)	Frank Darrah Pairs - Bewl Water, Kent	John Plowman
	13 th (Thursday)	Casting Clinic – Patcham House Playing Fields	
	20 th (Thursday)	Branch evening with beer and sandwiches - Arlington Reservoir	Roy Gurney
	29 th (Saturday)	Heathfield Show – demonstrating	John Plowman
<u>June</u>	5/6 th (Sat/Sun)	Country Pursuits Weekend – Loseley Park, Guildford	
	10/11/12 th (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)	South of England Show, Ardingly – Demonstrating	John Plowman
	19 th /20 th (Sat/Sun)	Parham Game and Country Fair	
	20 th (Sunday)	Branch Outing & BBQ – Ashbourne, nr Battle	Roy Gurney
<u>July</u>	3 rd (Saturday)	Match v. Hastings FFC - Powdermill Reservoir, Sedlescombe	Paul Davis
	10/11 th (Sat/Sun)	Michelham Priory Game & Country Fair – Demonstrating	John Plowman
	15 th (Thursday)	South of England Show, Ardingly – Schools Day - Demonstrating	John Plowman
	25 th (Sunday)	Stillwater Challenge – Chalk Springs	Chris Croucher
<u>August</u>	TBC	Salt Water Fly Fishing for Bass – Shoreham Harbour	Brian Hendry
	21 st (Saturday)	Carp on the Fly, Stammerham Lakes	Paul Davis
<u>August</u>	28 th (Saturday)	John Watt Trophy – Graffham Water	Chris Nunn
<u>September</u>	16 th (Thursday)	Simon Cooper, Managing Director of Fishing Breaks, will give a talk on his organization and fishing in general	
	19 th (Sunday)	Match v. Crawley F.F. – Lakedown Trout Fishery, Burwash	Bill Smith
	23 rd (Thursday)	Fly Tying commences	
	26 th (Sunday)	Branch Trophy Day – Brick Farm	Peter Winder
<u>October</u>	2 nd & 3 rd (Sat/Sun)	South of England Autumn Show and Game Fair – Ardingly – Demonstrating	John Plowman
	10 th (Sunday)	Charity Pairs Competition, Bewl Water	Ray Love
	17 th (Sunday)	Grayling Fishing – River Test, Wherwell	Paul Davis
	21 st (Thursday)	Annual <u>AUCTION</u> of flies, fly-tying tools and materials and books	Roy Gurney
	24 th (Sunday)	Match v. East Sussex Salmon & Trout Association – Coltsford Mill, Oxted, Surrey	Roy Gurney
	28 th (Thursday)	We welcome back JOHAN KLINGBERG who will hold a workshop (and we hope tell us a few illustrated tales)	
	30 th & 31 st (Saturday & Sunday)	British Fly Fair International (BFFI), Trentham Gardens, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire	
<u>November</u>	2 nd (Tuesday)	Annual <u>AUCTION</u> of fishing tackle- rods, reels, miscellaneous tackle and clothing	Roy Gurney
	25 th (Thursday)	Phil Waller, expert on vintage tackle, will entertain us	
<u>December</u>	16 th (Thursday)	AGM and quiz with mince pies	
	26 th (Sunday)	Branch Outing, Boringwheel Fishery, Nutley, E. Sussex	Bill Smith/ Wayne Duerden