

Valley Angler

More Proof the Apocalypse is Near

by Bill Thompson

I hope everyone is enjoying their Presidents Week vacation and getting in lots of skiing. It is surprising how many skiers are fly fishermen. Oddly enough, for what is always a slow season for us, vacation week is always a busy week at the shop. A lot of our summer customers, who ski, stop by and see us and a lot of fly tiers stop in as well to replenish their stocks.

A reminder to anyone planning on entering the Pink Fly Contest only a short time remains before the deadline for flies to be turned in. In case you have forgotten the Pink Fly Contest raises money for Casting for Recovery. It is just five bucks to enter a fly and the whole five bucks goes to Casting for Recovery. You can find more information and the complete rules at www.northcountryangler.com; just click the Pink Fly Contest logo.

We have received some beautiful flies already, but we want as many as we can get before we go to the New Hampshire Fly Fishing Show in Pelham, March 7th and 8th. We always display the entries at the show and announce the winner there as well. I had a young fellow come by last week who dropped off two flies for the contest and he donated a couple dozen flies to CFR as well. This young man is a great fly tier and I would guess that he is no more than 12 or 13. Another local fellow has entered some gorgeous bass bugs. Another interesting entry is a saltwater fly called "Lobstar Ready For Butar". The competition is heating up so you will need to bring your "A Game" this year to win. The important thing though is to just enter and help out a great organization.

In a follow up to last week's column, "More Proof The Apocalypse is Near", New Hampshire is losing one its sporting institutions. Emerson Outdoor Outfitters is closing its doors. Less than four years ago the company moved into a new one million dollar building. The original store opened over eighty years ago in Groveton as a combination hardware and sporting goods operation. The good news is that the company will be making a strategic retreat back to their old location although greatly reduced in size. The company was the victim of the greater economy and the recent paper mill closing in Groveton.

Several people of asked me about the Saco Valley Anglers annual auction. At present plans are being made and with any luck by next week we should have a date and location picked. I have already received several items for the auction; however we are a long way from having enough items to hold an auction. Now is the time to take a look at that old tackle gathering dust in the garage and see if there is something you could donate. Donations do not have to be fishing related and fact some of our best selling items have nothing to do with fishing. We have several new projects this year including a new Trout in the Classroom program in the Bartlett Middle School so we need your support. I will keep you posted as soon as I have more information.

See you on the river.