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Fly-Tying Workshops at UNH
Begin Feb. 10

By Michelle Gregoire
UNH News Bureau

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DURHAM, NH -- As the snow piles up outside, comfort yourself with thoughts of grabbing a fly rod and heading out for trout, striped bass or your favorite warm-water prey. Starting Saturday, Feb. 10, Fly-Tying Saturdays, a series of four workshops at the University of New Hampshire’s Dimond Library, will help both beginning and intermediate fly-tiers get ready for the approaching season.

Bill Cass, assistant director of Career Services at UNH, coordinates the workshops. A lifelong fly-fisher, Cass was formerly technical director at Orvis in Manchester, Vt., and taught in its world-famous fly-fishing school. He will introduce the basics of fly-tying: the selection of materials and equipment and a number of standard patterns that each participant should master. The workshops will offer intermediate tiers a forum for exchanging fly patterns, ideas, and new techniques. Aaron Adams, a tier from the Boston area, will join the series in April and May to share his expertise on warm-water and saltwater patterns.

Scheduled sessions are as follows: Feb. 10: Simple Flies that Catch Fish; March 24: Classic Trout Flies; April 14: Flies for Bass and Panfish; and May 12: Flies for Striped Bass. All sessions will run from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in the Milne Special Collections and Archives Department, on the first floor of Dimond Library.

There is no charge for the workshops, but a donation of $5 per session is suggested to cover the cost of materials. Participants are expected to supply basic equipment and tools, including a vise, bobbin, dubbing needle, and scissors. The workshops are limited to 10 participants.

The Milne Special Collections and Archives
Department maintains the Milne Angling Collection, one of the largest collections of angling literature in the United States. The collection, which now numbers more than 3,500 volumes, is particularly rich in materials relating to fly-fishing for trout and Atlantic salmon, with special emphasis on fishing in New England and eastern Canada. The collection also boasts a vast array of books on fly-tying, rod making, and stream tactics. The collection is open to the public and will be available for use by workshop participants.

For information about Fly-Tying Saturdays or about the Milne Angling Collection, contact Bill Ross, 862-0346, or visit the Web site: www.izaak.unh.edu.