

Favorite Flies for Catskill Rivers

By the members of the **Catskill Fly Tyers Guild**



Second edition, 2011

I remember vividly the day I received my copy of the first edition of this booklet, which then was titled *Favorite Rivers & Favorite Flies*. It was at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center's Summerfest event, and as I browsed the grounds with my new-found interest in fly fishing and tying, I stopped to watch Allan Podell tying an Adams dry fly at the table of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild. I was amazed at how effortlessly he set the wings and dubbed the body, and I knew right then that this was an organization I wanted to be a part of. I paid my membership dues, and he handed me my booklet, free to all new members. I couldn't wait to look through it. Since then, I have referred to it hundreds of times, and my well-worn copy is right where I can reach it at my tying bench.

This is the second edition of the booklet, and many of our experienced members have contributed to it. It was interesting to me, as the fly patterns were coming in, to see how things have changed from the first booklet to this one, how the patterns have evolved and new styles have taken precedence over old ones. What has not changed is the enthusiasm of the contributors who have submitted their tried-and-true patterns for fishing the classic rivers of the Catskills—the Beaverkill, Delaware, Esopus, Neversink, and Willowemoc—and their commitment to making this booklet something that can be referred to in the coming years.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild was formed in 1993 through the efforts of Floyd Franke and Matthew Vinciguerra. By 2011, the membership had grown to over 250 members. One of the guild's goals is to promote cooperatively the work of present-day Catskill fly tyers. Those individuals who are interested in supporting the guild's activities can do so by becoming a member.

Special Thanks

I would like to give special thanks to Bud Bynack for his tireless help on this booklet and to my family, Andrea, Carina, and Johnny, for having the computer skills that I so obviously lack. Also, to all the members who sent flies and e-mails and actually hunted me down so they could add to this project, thanks for your submissions.

John Bonasera, Editor

Beaverkill

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
March Brown Emerger [Kurt Huhner]	#10- #12 curved- shank dry fly	Orange	Natural CDC or deer hair	Tan Z-lon	Tan dubbing	Brown floss	X	
Snowshoe Rabbit Emerger [Bob Osburn]	#12- #28 dry fly	To match body	Snowshoe underfoot	Snowshoe underfoot	Dubbed fur, or biot in small sizes	X	X	Bob varies color to match naturals
Greenwell's Glory [Andy Brasko]	3906 #8	White w/black head	Dark slate duck quill	X	Olive floss, gold tag	Gold	Dark brown furnace hen	
Green Finch Nymph [Jack Pangburn]	79580 #8-#12	Yellow	Pheasant tail	Moose body hair	Olive Antron	Insect- green Larva Lace	Olive hen	Jack uses a bead at the head. Fish deep and let it rise at end of the drift
Black Bugger [Bob Osburn]	9672 #6-#12	Black	X	Black marabou clump	Black chenille	Black saddle, palmered	Black saddle	

Beaverkill

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
March Brown Thorax Dun [Joe Ceballos]	Dry fly #10-#14	Orange	Wood duck post	Barred ginger fibers	Tan fox fur	X	Barred ginger	
Emerger Nymph [Eric Peper]	9671 #10	Gray	X	Pheasant tail fibers	Hare's ear abdomen, dun fur thorax	Copper wire rib	Ruffed grouse feather	Eric uses this fly everywhere as a great producer
Red Ant [Bob Osburn]	#14-#20 dry fly	Red	X	X	In 2 parts, red dubbing	X	Ginger, sparse	
Black Wet Ant [Kurt Huhner]	#12-#20 wet or dry fly	Black	X	X	In 2 parts, black foam coated w/epoxy	X	Black, sparse	
Conover [Ted Patlen]	#12-#16 dry fly	White	X	Silver badger	Mixed red and gray fur dubbing	X	Silver badger	Very productive as a searching pattern

Delaware

Main Stem, East and West Branch

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Griffith's Gnat [Chally Bates]	#18-#24 dry fly	Black	X	X	X	X	Palmered grizzly	Excellent fly for the Tricos
CDC Comparadun [Kurt Huhner]	#14-#20	Black	Natural CDC tied as Comparadun	Dun hackle fibers, splayed	Olive or yellow/orange	X	X	Kurt ties this for the BWOs and Sulphurs
McGinty [Grant Holzworth]	#10-#14	Black	White-tipped mallard wing	Red and teal fibers	Black and yellow chenille	X	Brown	Can be tied wet or dry
Green Drake Emerger [John Kavanaugh]	#8-#10 curved- shank dry fly	Black	Green-dyed mallard, looped and short	Mallard flank	Pale-green fur dubbing	Brown	Partridge	John loves this fly when the big Drakes are out

Delaware

Main Stem, East and West Branch

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Red Quill [Dave Brandt]	#12-#14 dry fly	Red	Wood duck flank	Dun Fibers	Rhode Island Red stripped quill	X	Blue dun	
Iso Emerger [Allan Landheer]	#8-#10	Black	Brown Antron post	Pheasant tail fibers	Purple dyed pheasant tail w/ hare's ear thorax	Dyed burgundy porcupine quill	Dark dun	Allan likes this fly for the East and West Branch
Cornuta [Allan Landheer]	#14 dry fly	Black	Dun hackle tips	Rusty dun fibers	Olive dyed porcupine quill	X	Rusty dun	
Iso Nymph [Kurt Huhner]	1X-long nymph	Black	X	Pheasant tail fibers	Pheasant tail w/ostrich herl thorax	X	X	Kurt puts a white hackle stem over the body
Bumblepuppy [John Bonasera]	#2-#10 2X-long streamer	Black	White swan over polar bear, jungle cock eyes as cheeks	Red duck primary slips, short	White chenille, silver tip, red tag	Silver oval tinsel	Badger, long, fronted w/ teal	This streamer works for trout and bass



1. March Brown Emerger
2. Snowshoe Rabbit Emerger
3. Greenwell's Glory
4. Green Finch Nymph
5. Black Buggler
6. March Brown Thorax Dun
7. Emerger Nymph
8. Red Ant
9. Black Wet Ant
10. Conover

Esopus

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Iso Parachute [Kurt Huhner]	1X-long dry fly	Wine	Post, natural deer hair	Dun Microfibbets	Mahogany dubbing	X	Dark dun	Kurt likes this fly all season long
Jennings Iso Nymph [Ed Ostapczuk]	#8-#12 1X-long wet fly	Black	X	Partridge	Plumb & red seal fur, peacock herl thorax	Oval gold tinsel	Partridge collar	
Epeorus Nymph [Ed Ostapczuk]	#12 9672	Black	Brown mottled turkey wing case	Wood duck	Brown rabbit and fox, mixed; thorax of brown beaver fur	Brown saddle feather, palmered and trimmed short	Partridge collar	Ed wraps the hook shank w/heavy lead wire before dressing
White Maribou Streamer [Bob Osburn]	#6-#12 9672	White	White marabou topped w/peacock herl	X	Silver Mylar	X	White	Bob adds a few strands of silver Mylar in the wing
Black Leech [Ed Ostapczuk]	#8-#12 9672	Black	X	Black rabbit fur strip, longer than body	Black mohair, well picked out	X	X	Ed adds a few strands of flash to the tail



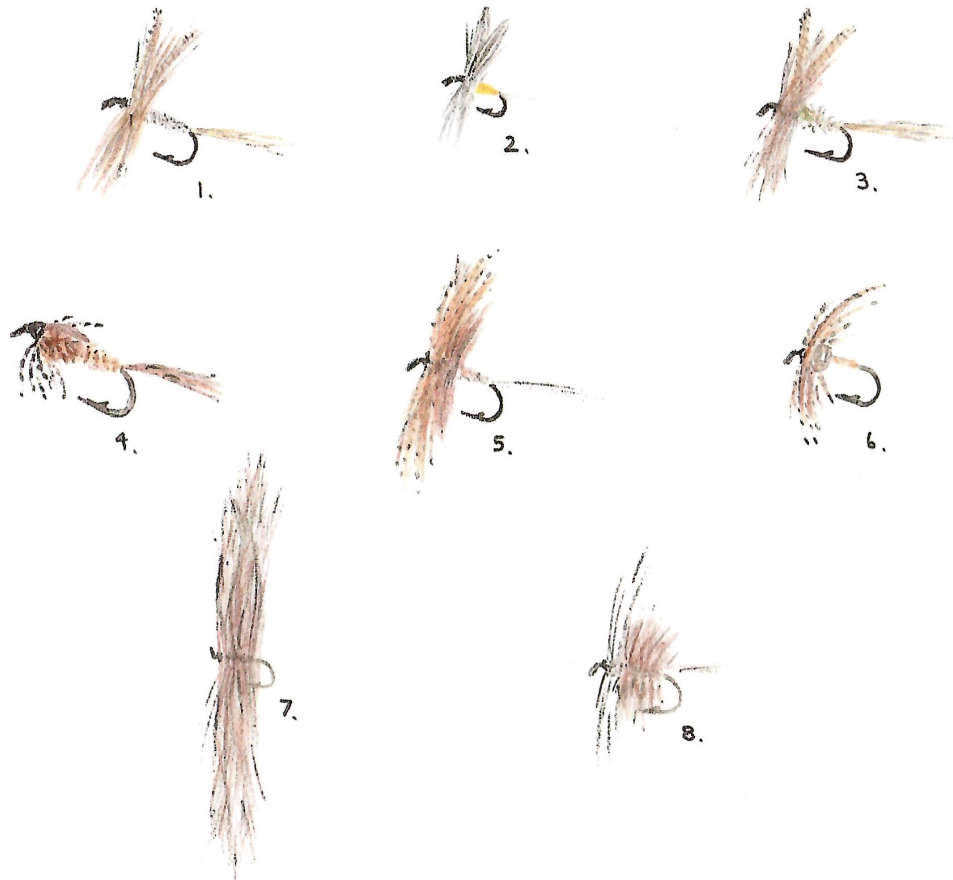
1. Iso Parachute
2. Jennings Iso Nymph
3. Epeorus Nymph
4. White Maribou Streamer
5. Black Leech

Neversink

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Grey Fox [Bill Leuszler]	#14 dry fly	White	Mallard flank	Light ginger	Light cream fox	X	Light ginger and grizzly, mixed	Bill gives this as a traditional pattern
Sulphur [Bill Leuszler]	#16- #18 dry fly	White	Light dun hackle points	Cream hackle fibers	Mix of yellow and orange fur	X	Cream	
Early Rio [Bill Leuszler]	#14 dry fly	Tan	Wood duck flank	Mix of honey dun and light grizzly fibers	Snowshoe under fur mixed w/olive fur	X	Mix of honey dun and light grizzly	Bill uses this during the Hendrickson hatch
Amber Nymph [Bill Leuszler]	#10- #12 3906B	Black	Dark turkey wing case	Pheasant tail fibers	Arctic fox fur dyed w/walnut hulls	Brown thread	Woodcock body feather	Can be weighted
Cinberg [John Bonasera]	#14 94840	Tan	Wood duck, tied as collar	Ginger hackle fibers	Tan fox	X	Brown or ginger	Historical pattern created by Dr. Cinberg for the Neversink

Neversink

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Soft Hackle Wet [Bob Osburn]	#8-#20 3906 or 3906B	To match body	X	X	Floss or dubbing, glass bead at thorax	X	Any soft hackle to complement body	Bob varies color to suit conditions
Neversink Skater [John Bonasera]	#16 fine- wire dry fly	Black	X	X	X	X	3 spade hackles as large as possible, palmered tightly	Historical pattern invented by Ed Hewitt
Bivisible [Ed Ostapczuk]	#10-#16 dry fly	Black	X	Brown	X	X	Brown, palmered, fronted with white	Ed likes this fly in fast water



1. Grey Fox
2. Sulphur
3. Early Rio
4. Amber Nymph
5. Cinberg
6. Soft Hackle Wet
7. Neversink Skater
8. Bivisible

Willowemoc

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Soft-Wing Emerger [Ted Patlen]	#10-#20 curved-shank dry fly	To match body	Any soft material to match body	Soft hackle fibers	Fur, dubbed sparsely	X	Any soft hackle, sparse	Ted varies materials to suit conditions
Leadwing Coachman [Andy Brasko]	3906 #8	Black	Dark slate duck slips	X	Peacock herl, gold tag	X	Dark brown hen, full collar	Andy likes this during Iso hatches
Beetle [Bob Osburn]	#12-#18 dry fly	Black	X	X	Black foam	X	Stiff hair for legs, sparse	
Grey Fox Variant [Ted Patlen]	#10-#16 short dry fly	Black	X	Ginger spade fibers, long	Stripped cream hackle quill	X	Grizzly, light and dark ginger	A great searching pattern in any water
Blue-Winged Olive [Ted Patlen]	#16-#20 fine wire dry fly	Olive	Dun hackle tips	Dun fibers	Olive fur dubbing	X	Medium dun	

Willowemoc

Pattern	Hook	Thread	Wing	Tail	Body	Rib	Hackle	Comments
Usual [Bob Osburn]	#12-#20 dry fly	Hot orange	Snowshoe hare	Snowshoe hare	Snowshoe hare, dubbed loosely	X	X	
Black Turkey [Andy Brasko]	#14-#16 3906	Black	Mottled cinnamon turkey	Black hackle fibers	Peacock herl	X	Black, tied as beard	Andy gives this as a historical pattern
Elk Hair Caddis [Bob Osburn]	#12-#18 dry fly	Tan	Elk hair, tied flared over body	X	Tan fur dubbing	Saddle hackle, palmered	X	Bob varies body to match naturals
Zonker [Ted Patlen]	#2-#10 streamer	Black	Rabbit fur strip	Rabbit fur strip	Braided Mylar or fur dubbing	X	Red at throat	Ted likes a big fly with lots of movement



1. Soft-Wing Emerger
2. Leadwing Coachman
3. Beetle
4. Grey Fox Variant
5. Blue Wing Olive
6. Usual
7. Black Turkey
8. Elk Hair Caddis
9. Zonker