



The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild *Gazette*

Volume 24, number 6

November 2021

The next meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will take place on Saturday, November 20, at 1:00 PM, at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. The topic of the meeting will be caddis. For a summary of our October meeting, see page fourteen of this *Gazette*.



Wade carefully! The lighter-colored patch on this stream bottom indicates the presence of a spawning redd.

President's Message By Joe Ceballos

I hope that all is well within our group and you are enjoying the pleasant fall weather and the good fishing opportunities to be had. My message for this *Gazette* will touch on some different topics from my usual.

As fall returns, brown trout and brook trout spawn. Please be mindful and observant of their spawning redds. It's sad to hear that some anglers are unaware of spawning locations and carelessly walk through them while wading. This is an especially important consideration due to the changes in New York's fishing

regulations that now allow people to legally fish during the time of year when trout are reproducing.

Another matter of importance is the handling of caught trout. In *TROUT* magazine from Trout Unlimited, I read Kirk Deeter's essay entitled *Is Catch-and-Release Angling All it's Cracked Up to Be?* That article, and seeing the numerous photos on Facebook of anglers holding caught fish with a tight grip, has me wondering how many trout survive after they're released.

For quite some time (years), I have not taken what is known as a "hero photo" of holding a caught trout in the air. I have more than enough photos, and more importantly, I believe what Lee Wulff said: "Game fish are too valuable to be caught only once. And the fish you release may be a gift to another, as it may have been a gift to you." As science evolves in our sport, we've learned that oxygen deprivation (hypoxia) is a serious issue influencing mortality of trout. Holding a fish out of water longer than ten seconds is almost a guarantee of harm and potentially death. A fish kept out of the water too long may swim off, but die soon after release. Ever have a super-struggling fish that refuses to be held? Consider that maybe it's best for that fish not to be handled. Be mindful, and do your own research on this subject, as we are all stewards of the fishery.

At the September meeting of the guild, water was leaking from the ceiling above the place where we were tying in the Wulff Gallery of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. To help address this and other maintenance issues, and for use of the facility, the guild will be making a donation of \$300 for this calendar year to the museum, followed by a donation next year in March of another \$300. I encourage all guild members to become CFFCM supporting members.

The museum is looking for fly tyers to tie in the main gallery on Saturdays and Sundays. If anyone wants to spend some time tying, call for availability at (845) 439-4810.



A painting by Lois Ostapczuk titled *The Abutments*

The Abutments By Lois Ostapczuk

I was happy when my husband asked me to do a landscape watercolor for a book that he's working on. He provided a photo of some old bridge abutments that were once found on the East Branch of the Neversink River, across from the Frost Valley YMCA farm along Denning Road. Climate change and high water has destroyed these abutments; sadly, only rocky remnants remain.

I sat in front of this structure with brush in hand for three hours, as I wanted my efforts to be loose and artsy, but still recognizable. The painting was completed in one sitting with a few tweaks here and there.

View more of Catskill artist Lois Ostapczuk's paintings by visiting:
<http://catskillwatersart.blogspot.com/2014/02/blog-post.html>

Simple CDC

In his *Traditional Catskill Dry Flies* DVD, Dave Brandt told viewers that he was not a creator of patterns, but rather tied established flies for the most part. In no way am I trying to compare myself to Dave; I'm merely pointing out some sound advice the late master offered, and then stepping over that line.

The vast majority of the flies that I tie and fish are known generic patterns that tend to imitate nothing in particular, but a lot of things in general. Among these is a fair share of hackled dry flies, mostly relying upon Collins necks to do so. Schooled in the works and philosophies of John Atherton (*The Fly and the Fish*)

Up on the Esopus



With Ed Ostapczuk

and Datus Proper (*What the Trout Said*), with the proper presentation and approach I've found that an Adams, a Mr. Rapidan, and an Ausable Wulff suffice most of my dry-fly needs on Catskill freestone trout waters. However, once I started wandering away from the Esopus and Beaverkill, finding my way to tailwaters below New York City Catskill dams, those flies failed me—or maybe I failed them.

Fortunately, about a quarter-century ago, I stumbled upon Hans Weilenmann's CDC and Elk and the wonderful world of CDC (Cul de canard). Downy CDC feathers surround the preen gland of a duck, so they're not from a rooster raised for the sole purpose of tying trout flies. Shortly after that discovery, at the New Jersey Fly Fishing Show in Somerset, I acquired Leon Links's book, *Tying Flies with CDC*, which was a real game-changer for me. As Links noted in his book title, CDC is "The Fisherman's Miracle Feather."

Concurrent with these incidents, I had been fishing the Neversink tailwaters quite regularly late in the season with tiny dry flies tied on Mustad 94840 hooks, often using flies that were tied on size 20 hooks and smaller in pursuit of brown trout sipping miniscule Blue-Winged Olives. At that time, for every four trout or so that I pricked with a tiny fly, I'd only land one of them. Discussing this matter with the late Bill Kelly, he suggested that I offset the small Mustad hooks to improve my catch to hooking ratio, and sure enough, that seemed to help matters, but I found a better idea when I started tying tiny dry flies with Daiichi 1130 hooks—a short-shank, wide-gap hook.

This led to the development of a series of four flies that I call Slant-Wing CDCs, as the CDC is tied in on a slant. They have been effective patterns for me and only require four simple materials to make: hook, thread, CDC feather, and body dub. Plus, I find trout will take these equally for duns and emergers. So, contrary to Dave Brandt's sound advice, I offer readers four easy CDC patterns below, all tied on Daiichi 1130 hooks.



The author's flies, from left to right: Blue-Winged Olive, Sulphur, Trico, and Mahogany. Tied and photographed by Ed Ostapczuk.

Blue-Winged Olive

Hook: Daiichi 1130, size 20 to 22

Thread: Black

Body: Gary LaFontaine olive touch dub

Wing: Mallard grey CDC

Sulphur

Hook: Daiichi 1130, size 20 to 22

Thread: White

Body: Gary LaFontaine yellow touch dub

Wing: Mallard grey CDC

Trico

Hook: Daiichi 1130, size 24

Thread: Black

Body: Mole

Wing: White CDC

Mahogany

Hook: Daiichi 1130, size 20 to 24

Thread: Black

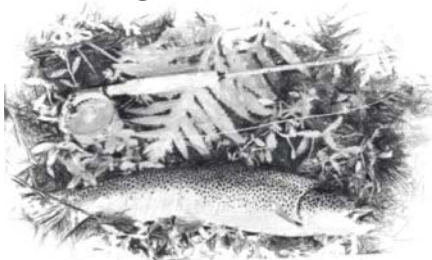
Body: Mahogany or *Isonychia* dubbing of your choice

Wing: Mallard grey CDC

Another individual who greatly influenced my tying and fishing of small dry flies was author and angler Ed Engle. In the Autumn/Winter 1996 issue of *Fly Tyer*, Engle wrote an article on Blue-Winged Olives, noting that they have many broods over the course of a season, and they tend to get smaller and darker as the season progresses. Thus, a size 22 or 24 Mahogany Slant-Wing CDC is often my go-to dry fly for autumn Blue-Winged Olives. In flat water, that fly is easy enough for me to locate. The Sulphur pattern is also another that works best for me late in the season when I find Sulphur duns that are smaller in size. These patterns are very similar to Marjan Fratnik's F Fly discussed in Leon Links's book, but they're something that came into being for me independent of that work.

Here's a quick tying suggestion. Because CDC can be an expensive purchase, I tie one CDC feather on a slant with its tip reaching the bend of the hook. Then I fold the feather over and tie that on an angle, and cut off the stem to be the same length as the tip. It saves money by only using one feather, while providing a somewhat beefier wing to float and locate the pattern. If you choose to tie and fish these simple CDCs, I wish you good luck.

Casting Catskill Cane



With Mark Sturtevant

Remembering a Legend and a Friend

April 2020, deep in the initial lockdown stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, I received a short text message from a dear friend in Western Maryland, telling me that Ed Shenk had died that day. My mind was flooded with emotions, for there is no single fly fisher who so thoroughly influenced my development as an angler than Ed. Under the circumstances, there was no chance to attend any memorial service, nor to properly honor my friend and mentor—a man who I hold as one of the greatest anglers our sport has

ever known. That made his loss all the more difficult for me.

I wrote my own tribute in my blog, though that seemed much too little to mark the passing of a legend. The master of the Letort, Fly Fishing Hall of Fame member Ed Shenk deserved more. I messaged the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, which had inducted him into their hall of fame, and the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum that had inducted Ed early in its history. Sadly, both organizations remained silent, as they do to this day. The lockdown due to the pandemic had millions of us wondering fearfully what might become of us—of humankind itself.

Months later, a friend notified me that he had seen one of Ed's fly reels listed on Ebay, and I looked it up immediately. Sure enough, Bill Skilton, who had worked with Ed for several years in selling his accumulated fishing tackle, had acquired the remaining items from his estate. He was offering Ed's Hardy Featherweight fly reel for sale. I acted quickly and was fortunate to purchase a lasting piece of history: a touchstone for my memories of all I had learned from the master.

I knew that I would fish that reel, and that Ed would be properly honored only by my angling with his Featherweight, my own way of inviting him along on the rivers of my heart, here in my new home in the Catskill mountains. As the long winter of 2020 wore on, I conceived the idea of a special fly rod, a bamboo fly rod that would do justice to the spirit of my mentor. Ed was known for his love of short fly rods, particularly his collection of short, light bamboo rods, and he passed that affinity along to me.

Back in the Cumberland Valley, I angled with either a six-foot six-inch or a seven-foot rod on a daily basis. We had a joke between us when Ed would see me with that seven-footer, that it was "alright, but about a foot too long." On our larger Catskill rivers, I fish fine and far off, and an eight-foot bamboo rod is my typical companion. Casting distance was not a factor upon the limestone springs, but it is here. It would not be acceptable to mount the master's reel on a long fly rod—not at all. I settled upon the idea of a seven-foot bamboo rod for a 4-weight line, and I began to study to find a way to make the concept a reality.

My goal was a very special seven-foot 4-weight, the Shenk Tribute Rod, that would make the seventy-foot casts I sometimes need to take the wary wild browns of my favorite rivers. There are many fine tapers for seven fours, but they are not designed or intended for such distances: often working marvelously out to forty feet, before simply running out of gas. I began to read and study rod tapers. Thanks to the kind assistance of my friend Tom Smithwick, I learned to read the graphs of bamboo rod tapers and to equate the numbers and curves to how the rod might feel and perform in my hand. As it was not possible to travel in the COVID world and cast different rods, I had to learn enough to choose the rod I wanted on paper, and to then choose the rodmaker.

I first met Tom Whittle some twenty-five years ago, when he visited my Falling Spring Outfitter's shop. We shared an appreciation for the history of fly fishing in the Cumberland Valley. Tom acted decisively on his feelings about the importance of the local fly-fishing history and founded the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association. He became a respected bamboo rodmaker, and co-authored a wonderful book about the rodmaking of Vincent C. Marinaro, an innovator and author of two pivotal angling works: *A Modern Dry Fly Code* and *In The Ring of The Rise*.

I had decided that the Garrison 202E taper was the beginning for the Tribute Rod when I came back to study Tom's tapers in his Marinaro book. Tom's modifications of Garrison's classic design convinced me that I had found both the taper and the maker. After all, Tom was a Cumberland Valley angler, a maker and fisher of exceptional short fly rods, and the man that dedicated years of his time and effort to sharing his profound appreciation of the history of fly fishing in the Cumberland Valley through the museum.

We spoke at length in March, and Tom liked my idea of honoring Ed Shenk with a special fly rod to wear his Featherweight and angle the wild trout of the Catskills. I was thrilled that he agreed to make the rod and that he shared my enthusiasm for the project.

I embarked upon the new dry-fly season in April, a season that would prove to be the best and most productive season of my life. As summer came, and my terrestrial fishing came to the fore, I thought daily about the Tribute Rod. Tom had planned to complete the rod and bring it to the Catskill Rodmakers Gathering in September. He sent me updates, first with photos of three very special reel seat blanks that he had turned from an ancient piece of maple burl that was carbon dated and found to be more than 800 years old, and later with photos of the blank “in strings” and various stages of creation. My excitement was palpable when the day of Tom’s arrival dawned.

We met at the Village of Hancock’s town square that afternoon, and the rod was exquisite! The afternoon was drawing on as we talked, and I fondled the gorgeous shaft of flamed bamboo and slipped the Featherweight into Tom’s one-of-a-kind reel seat. We decided that we should take what time remained to fish together and headed toward the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum in Livingston Manor, where Tom would be registering for the gathering. We stopped at Buck Eddy on the Willowemoc, the first named pool in the Catskills, and enjoyed an hour of casting in search of the elusive brown trout.

I learned that Tom had redesigned his taper for the project, as he withdrew the first prototype rod from his handmade maple rod case. Once he had completed that prototype and satisfied himself that it would perform as I had imagined, he had carefully made my rod, the Shenk Tribute Rod, which he presented to me at the town square.

The rod was a dream to cast and to fish—everything I had hoped for and more! My only regret was that time was too short for the two of us to fish together and celebrate Tom’s achievement.



Master rodmaker Tom Whittle fishes the fast water above Buck Eddy with his prototype seven four.

At last, I was able to properly honor the memory of my friend and mentor, the man who was my greatest influence in becoming a passionate fly angler and fly tyer: the great Ed Shenk. The skill and knowledge of another friend had made it possible, more than a year after Ed had passed.



The Shenk Tribute Rod, adorned by Ed Shenk's Hardy Featherweight, upon its debut in the Catskills.

In the last glow of summer, I traveled to the hallowed Neversink River, the epicenter of the dry fly in America. I came to honor the master, in search of a trophy brown to grace the Shenk Tribute Rod. It was important that the rod's first fish be taken there, and almost too much to hope that it be a brown trout of trophy proportions.

I came upon a fall of flying ants, and recalled meeting Ed along the Letort decades ago. He related that he'd encountered such an ant fall that morning and had taken uncountable numbers of trout, a feat I steadfastly maintain could not have been accomplished by any other angler. I could not equal that feat upon the Neversink, as the trout sipping ants throughout the pool I have called Victory Pool proved to be beyond me that day.

As the sipping rises diminished, I changed my tippet and knotted my own cricket pattern in place. The design owes heavily to Ed's classic Letort Cricket. I have changed some things to enhance the fly's image of life, and that fly has been more than proven during the summer of '21. There was one more riser, not a gentle sipping rise, but one with the telltale bulge and dimple of a large trout casually taking.

The Tribute Rod sent sixty feet of line on its way, the fly alighting beneath the overhanging branches with a gentle plop, one foot above the location of that seductive bulge. The take was so gentle that I nearly missed it; the black fly simply vanished! The Tribute Rod did what it was born to do, the venerable Hardy found its voice once again, and I finally honored the memory of my friend, my teacher, and my master.

When the music of the reel finally quieted, and the trout found a home in the net, the feelings in my heart were of respect, gratitude, admiration, and joy. I measured that brown at twenty inches, reaching my benchmark for a Catskill trophy. I am certain that Ed was watching, and I believe I even heard him speak: "That's a beautiful rod my friend, a shame it's not a foot shorter!"

Mark Sturtevant can be followed on his blog, Bright Waters Catskills:

<https://brightwatercatskill.art.blog>

You can learn more about Tom Whittle's cane fly rods at

<http://www.stonycreeksrods.com/>

Bamboo

My introduction to bamboo rods was unintentional. I didn't seek them out; instead, they found me. I was like most anglers, always looking at the new model rods. I felt that whatever was currently in style would ease the curve of learning. Hanging out in the Catskills, or more specifically, hanging out around the Beamoc system, the chances are pretty good you're going to eventually meet up with guys that adhere to a different, more traditional outlook on fishing.

They were known as the "Boo Boys," a name given to them by the then Catskill museum curator, Jim Krul. They weren't a club, or an organization so to speak—they were more a cult—a group of like-minded traditionalists that felt that if you're going to be casting dry flies to trout in the most beautiful streams in the country, the place where the American dry fly was born and countless sporting writers flocked to and wrote about, then you need to do it traditionally.

I met my first Boo Boy at the Reynolds House during the first Fly Fest gathering in Roscoe, February 2005. His name was Mike Canazon, and his close friend Tom Mason was with him. Mike is an expert maker of bamboo rods, and Tom is the guy that you want to talk to about Leonard rods. We chatted about flies for a bit, and the conversation turned to cane rods. At the time, I thought I was just chatting with two guys that I just met, but what was taking place was much bigger than that.

Winter passed, spring rolled around, and I got an invite to the "Catskill White House." I soon learned that the white house was actually the cult leader's residence (it's Mike's house), complete with a rod shop in the basement. Curiosity leads to involvement, and before long I was one of them, in the cult: a Boo Boy. I had a lot to learn, and this is where I'll give you my take on fishing cane rods. In my opinion, the first attraction to bamboo is its natural beauty. While all other rods are a mixture of some sort of composite, epoxy, or polymer (i.e., man-made material), cane rods are almost completely made from natural components. When the sunlight hits them, they glow with beauty. After holding one, it becomes apparent that the most noticeable difference between cane and graphite is the weight. Cane rods are heavier. With this extra weight comes a slower, softer action that may not immediately sound attractive to the casual angler, but this is what makes them such lovely casting tools. To the experienced caster, a bamboo rod does all of the work: lifting, loading, and gently landing the fly line.

Unlike modern rods, bamboo requires some maintenance and care. They don't love extreme temperatures, ferrules can get stuck if left assembled for long periods of time, and yanking on them to

free a fly from a tree branch can be disastrous.

They do, however, take much more punishment than graphite if they are dropped on rocks, smacked against objects, and even if they're stepped on. Bamboo is a very tough material.

I own a handful of cane rods, all Catskill tapers, of course, and the one that I take out most often is a Leonard Model 40 copy that I made years ago. That little eight-foot 3-weight makes me smile every time I unscrew the cap on the tube. The aroma of a slight hint of spar varnish lingers with me on the water, and it just begs me to tie on a Cinberg or a Bivisible to cast with a silk line and a furlled leader. That combo is so familiar to me that I don't think about a cast—the rod just does it.



Leonard Model 40 clone built by the author, alongside a stream-caught brown trout. Photo: John Bonasera

Anything closer than twenty feet requires only a little wrist action.

Playing even a small trout on bamboo is such a treat; the full flexing action of the rod transfers every movement to your hand.

Swinging wet flies is something special with bamboo rods. Many an Opening Day has found me with a quill Gordon wet fly knotted to the leader, and the limber nature of bamboo is very forgiving on those violent downstream takes that swinging flies will sometimes produce.

Not long ago, a friend of mine saw me stringing up my Model 40, and he said, "I'd love to get a bamboo rod, too." While I would never talk someone out of buying a bamboo rod, I did suggest that he try mine for a while before shopping around. In my opinion, once a person gets accustomed to modern rods, it's not easy or comfortable to switch over to bamboo. It's more of a mindset, a true love of the old way, compelling you to be part of the bamboo crowd. But if you do get bitten by the bug, it can further your enjoyment of the sport more than graphite ever did. It brings you closer to trout fishing in the Catskills than you were before. I know it did for me.

Meet Our Local Catskill Guides By Ed Walsh

Jennifer Kakusian has been an avid outdoors person since her youth. Her dad, Fred Doolittle, loved fly fishing and tying, and exposed her to the sport at a young age. It also helped that she had a stocked stream loaded with brown trout running through her family's property in Chenango, New York, where she could hone her skills. Jennifer's enthusiasm for the sport also grew when she followed her dad to the local Trout Unlimited chapter meetings (the Al Hazzard TU Chapter in Binghamton) where she met other fly fishers who encouraged her interest and participation. Fly fishing, along with bird hunting and skeet shooting, became important activities during her adolescent years, and it was no wonder when deciding where to go to college that she stayed close to home and attended Wells College in Aurora, a short one-and-a-half-hour drive from her home. Weekend fishing trips and trap-shooting events became a regular part of her routine.



Jennifer (wearing hat) and Dette Flies co-owner Kelley Bucta.

During college, she was introduced to John Kakusian, a young man who became her husband. Jen and John moved to Vestal, New York, and they have two children: daughter Tori Jo who is twenty-five, and a son, Michael, who is twenty-three.

Graduating with a degree in math, Jennifer taught at a number of schools in the Broome County area, but she continued an active role in the local TU chapter. Following in her dad's footsteps, she became a board member and rose to the office of president. She and her father initiated the Trout in the Classroom program involving sixteen schools in the Broome/Tioga area. Her fly fishing and fly-tying skills were recognized by many chapter members, and when new members joined the group it was Jennifer who took them to the local rivers to show them where and when to fish. Even without her knowing it, her next career was being developed.

In 2007, Jennifer left teaching after twenty years in the profession. She knew by this time what her next career step would be: guiding. She became licensed to guide in New York and Pennsylvania and got a drift boat from her dad. With the support of her TU chapter members, her schedule filled up quickly. Her reputation was growing, and her area of coverage increased to include the Beaverkill and Willowemoc. Jennifer was becoming a recognizable commodity in our area of the Catskills.

Jen became friends with Mary Dette, who would often speak at their TU chapter's annual banquet. She is quick to say that Mary's presence helped fill the room with more than 400 people in attendance, making the event a huge success. She also gives credit to Mary's grandson, Joe Fox, who was a regular at the chapter's winter meeting. That relationship continued to grow, and Jen became a member of the Dette Fly Shop guiding team in 2017.

I asked about her favorite place to fish and her favorite fly. She was initially hesitant, because she said the entire region has so many great rivers and small streams, but she did share that Knight's Riffle on the main stem of the Delaware has always been a place that she enjoys. As for her favorite fly, it's the Red Quill, and she always uses a Royal Wulff for prospecting.

As with all guides featured in this column, I asked Jennifer for a fly that she developed or uses often. I think you'll find Jen's choice and its recipe an interesting addition. Although the fly doesn't have a name, Jennifer is quick to tell me that it is a Charlie Craven tie that she altered when she found a nymph of similar description but in a different color scheme.



Jennifer with a big brown and a guide in Colorado



Hook: Scud, size 10 to 14, or a 2X-long dry-fly hook
Thread: Olive 8/0
Bead: Tungsten (black or gold) 3.2mm to 3.5mm
Tail: Cream Z-Lon (or comparable material)
Rib: Red wire (small)
Shellback: Olive scudback
Body: Mix of light olive, brown olive, and medium olive

Jen reports: I normally rely on the weight of the bead, but wire can be wrapped around the hook. After the fly is completed, I use my Velcro clothespin and wreck the dubbed body—the nastier the better! Fish this fly in the riffles and soft water behind massive rocks. I love to feel it hit the bottom and bounce along, or use it as a dropper eighteen inches below my adaption of a Hare's Ear. The lighter version is used as a dropper under an indicator fly, such as a Royal Wulff.

You can contact Jennifer: (607) 237-4000 Email at jkakusian@stny.rr.com or at the Dette Fly Shop: (845) 439-1166 Email flyshop@detteflies.com

The Orange Woodcock By Tom Mason



Orange Woodcock, tied and photographed by Tom Mason

I've had some success over the last couple of years fishing the Orange Woodcock in late fall along the Beaverkill when October Caddis hatch among the other caddis. For myself, caddis are primarily a wet-fly hatch, and using a Leisenring Lift at the end of a drift can produce some dramatic strikes. This particular pattern that I tied was an exercise to prepare for a meeting of the Catskill Heritage Fly Tiers. For that group, the flies must be tied using only materials and tools that were in existence prior to 1970. That requirement produced no worries for me regarding this pattern, as the recipe has been around for a couple of hundred years. The hook that I'm using

on this fly is about 100 years old and is a sneck bend. Sneck-bend hooks were extremely popular prior to 1900.

Orange Woodcock

Hook: Mustad sneck bend model 4972, size 10

Silk: Pearsall's gossamer hot orange (number 19)

Body: Hot orange silk

Thorax: Peacock herl

Wing: Woodcock over covert feather (covert feather on the outer wing)

Book Review

Fly Tying for Everyone

By Tim Cammisa. Published by Stackpole Books, 2021; \$24.95 hardbound.

“Joe Ceballos knows everyone” is the type of sentence that gives a certain species of philosophers fits. It's accepted in ordinary speech as true, yet at the same time, it is clearly impossible and false. “Everyone,” of course, actually is a limited group of someones, and the question for anyone who might be interested in Tim Cammisa's *Fly Tying for Everyone* is whether or not you're the kind of someone the book is for.

All books tell you explicitly or implicitly the kind of reader they want, and fly-tying books usually are quite upfront about it. What's a little confusing about *Fly Tying for Everyone* is that the message is mixed, with the explicit and implicit messages at odds with each other. “Everyone” here, on the one hand, is a pretty explicit demographic: it is people who already are fly tyers with some skills and equipment, but it is more limited than that—to those who also seek to employ new, synthetic

materials in flies designed for techniques that go well beyond the old-fashioned upstream dry-fly drift and downstream wet-fly swing. It is also those whose primary source of fly-tying information is not books.

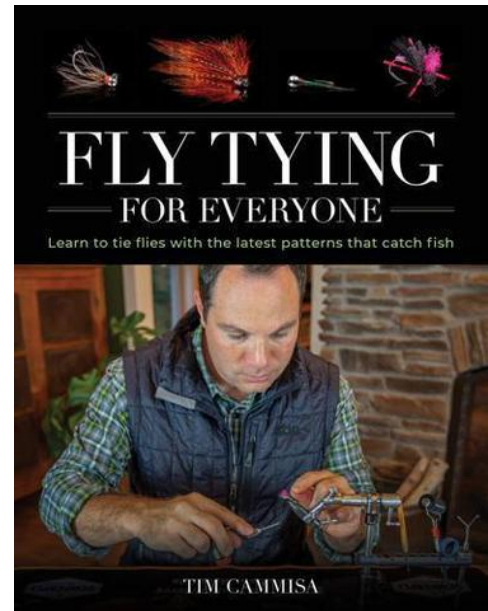
As Chuck Furimsky puts it in a foreword, “Tim is part of a new generation of fly tiers,” and many readers will already have known him and his work from his YouTube channel with over twenty-five thousand subscribers and his Trout and Feather website. (The book is in effect an OG supplement to this more modern approach to publication, books still being an obligatory, if quaint element of anyone’s résumé in the fly-fishing business.) As Cammisa himself claims, the book is “designed to take your tying skills to the next level and beyond,” offering techniques and ideas that will allow you to “build on your prior connections and experiences in both tying and fly fishing.” Because it was “written to . . . push your tying skills to the next level,” it aims to provide the means to tie “a difficult fly,” one that you may have “favorited . . . on Instagram, seen . . . hanging out of a fish’s mouth in *Fly Fisherman* magazine,” or encountered “in the ‘Fly Tying with Uncle Cheech’s group on Facebook.”

On the other hand, in terms of the book’s basic structure, “everyone” here is, well, everyone — or at least everyone interested in learning to tie flies, including newbies. Perhaps it’s simply a generic requirement of fly-tying book publishing, but *Fly Tying for Everyone* begins, like almost every other tying book you’ve ever seen, with basic information about tools and materials. It’s titled “Welcome to the 21st Century of Fly Tying,” but it’s mostly a survey of such things as how to choose a vise and other tools, complete with product placements. The section on materials, however, does focus on synthetics and resins, as well as on modern hook designs and on substituting synthetic for natural materials.

But anyone thinking that *Fly Tying for Everyone* is fly tying for everyone will be disappointed. The intended audience is that guy in the backward trucker cap and the Euro nymphing rig fishing the pocket water I can no longer wade as I wait on the bank for fish to rise in the pool below. It’s a book for bros. Not that there’s anything wrong with that.

The list of fly patterns tells the story. There are only two dry flies, Lance Egan’s Corn-Fed Caddis and Curtis Fry’s foam Moodah Poodah, and two emergers, a Condor Emerger (which uses Veniard Condor Substitute) and a simple CDC-winged Pliva Shuttlecock, attributed to Fly Fishing Team USA member Devi Olsen. There are six nymph patterns: the Frenchie, a CDC Quill Body Jig Nymph, the Mop Fly (yes, the Mop Fly), the Sexy Walt’s Worm, the Perdigon, and the Beach Body Stone. Three streamers complete the lineup: an Articulated Streamer, and Extreme String Baitfish, and a Mini Jig Bugger. I tie the Corn-Fed Caddis and can attest that coming to terms with its CDC hackle in a dubbing loop is not for beginners. And obviously, the list is designed for Euro nymphers.

But why a Mop Fly? After all, it scarcely can be said to be a fly that’s “tied,” and this ostensibly is not a book for beginners. Cammisa records getting a polite “WTF?” from his editor, Jay Nichols, and in response claims he’s actually teaching techniques here — shaggy dubbing in a loop for a thorax and supergluing the mop to the hook shank — but the principal reason seems to be that it is one of “the top five videos I’ve ever created” and “a more recent version” is presented here “to show ways to increase durability for patterns.” Maybe. Still, again, it mixes the messages, as well as alone the media.



There's also a lot going on at once, and because the other generic features of most tying books are absent here — building from simpler to more complicated patterns and techniques, for instance, or presenting a wide variety of patterns of a certain type, or organizing the text by the bugs being imitated — it's sometimes hard to focus on what the topic of a chapter actually is in terms of techniques being taught. Each chapter, after a discussion of the fly and some of the issues involved in tying it, is followed by a "Tying Tip," "Featured Technique," "Materials to Consider" for substitutions, and "Fishing Suggestions" prior to the actual step-by-step tying photos, and most patterns actually involve multiple techniques and materials, most of which get commented on, so the approach to each one involves a lot of different things.

But Tim Cammisa is an experienced fly tyer and there are plenty of tips that any tyer with some experience can pick up from *Fly Tying for Everyone*, even geezers like me who are not in the book's target demographic. Keeping a small ruler or set of dividers handy makes sense if you struggle with getting the proportions of your flies to be consistent. Trimming CDC irregularly by picking bits off with your fingers, not cutting the tips even with scissors, to achieve a buggier appearance is a neat tip. It never occurred to me that if UV-cure resin remains sticky after being hit with the light, it can be because the batteries in the light need to be changed. Things like that are the tips. Your results certainly will vary. I even appreciated being told that the Frenchie is "the modern-day equivalent of the Frank Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph" and that the Sexy Walt's Worm is "our modern-day replacement for the Hare's Ear." Geezers like me may not be everyone, but there's something in *Fly Fishing for Everyone*, even for the likes of us.

—Bud Bynack

Obituaries

Charles Krom. Charles Edward Krom, age 91, of White House, Tennessee, passed away on Friday, April 23, 2021. Mr. Krom was retired from the New York City Fire Department after 28 years of service. Charlie, as he was known, loved hunting and fishing and he was a master fly tyer of many styles. He was well known for his salmon flies. Along with Keith Fulsher, he is the co-author of *Hair-wing Atlantic Salmon Flies*. Charlie was still tying expertly crafted flies into his nineties. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Loretta Krom; son, Stephen Krom; daughters Beth Meyer and Erica DeGroat; sister, Barbara Rhatigan; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Charles Krom



Painting of Ted Rogowski displayed at the CFFMC

Ted Rogowski. Theodore Richard (Ted) Rogowski, passed away on July 5, 2021, at age ninety-three. Born in Chicopee, Massachusetts, he graduated from Amherst College and served in the US Army during the Korean War. Ted attended Columbia Law School, photographed and filmed with Lee Wulff, and joined Wall Street as a patent attorney. He was an early leader in the environmental movement, and worked for the federal government to help draft The Clean Water Act and the executive order that established the Environmental Protection Agency. Ted was well known in New York fly fishing. He was instrumental in the creation of the Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers in 1963, and he was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum's Hall of Fame in 2017.

What is a Catskill Fly?

The question of what defines a Catskill fly continually arises. For the benefit of our membership, here is a reprint of the guild's established definition that last appeared in the July 2018 issue of the *Gazette*.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild's definition of a Catskill fly was established early in the history of the organization, in 1994, by a committee consisting of Martin Redcay, John Jacobson, Dave Brandt, Ken Mears, and Doug Fries and agreed on by the guild.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild acknowledges any pattern known to have originated roughly within the Catskills, and to have been designed largely for use there, to be a Catskill fly. This would include the famous Catskill "style" floating flies created by the pillars of the American fly-tying fraternity, as well as the continually emerging dressings of contemporary Catskill fly tyers.

Thanks go to Judie DV Smith for recalling that the definition appeared in the *Gazette*, and to Bud Bynack for his search through the archives to locate it.

Happenings From the Guild's October Meeting

The October meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild in the Wulff Gallery at the CFFCM was well attended, lively, and informative. As announced to our entire membership in the new pre-meeting notice, the *Emerger*, the meeting's focus was on *Isonychia*, and we had several demonstrations of flies for that hatch. Many thanks go to the presenters and to our members in attendance. Here are photos of members and flies:

At right, Tom Mason gives a stern look to anyone who does not appreciate the beauty of a spool of Pearsall's gossamer silk. Tom used Pearsall's silk in claret to tie an Iron Blue Dun.

Tom explained that the British do not have *Isonychia* in their waters, but the Iron Blue Dun (an old North Country pattern) is a highly effective fly for the hatch in the Catskills when fished on the swing. In addition to the silk, the fly uses a sparse application of mole fur that is touch dubbed and followed by a spin of the bobbin to twist together the dubbing and silk (notice the body in the photo below). A Jackdaw feather is used for the soft hackle.



Iron Blue Dun tied by Tom Mason

Iron Blue Dun

Hook: Mustad 3906B

Silk: Pearsall's gossamer, claret

Body: Claret silk dubbed with mole fur

Hackle: Jackdaw feather from the throat of the bird

Mark Sturtevant showed the crowd how to tie his Halo *Isonychia*. He explained in detail how the fly is based on the way *Isonychia* change color from their emergence to the dun stage, starting with green bodies as they emerge, which soon darken to the brownish purple that we associate with Isos. Mark's halo concept of tying uses olive brown Kreinik silk dubbed onto wine-colored thread. When wet, the translucency of the silk dubbing allows the wine underbody to show, giving the halo effect of both colors. He uses Enrico Puglisi Trigger Point Fibers to create a very durable and buoyant wing that requires little maintenance when being fished.



Mark Sturtevant laying out the concepts of his Halo *Isonychia*

Halo *Isonychia*



- Hook: Standard dry fly of choice, sizes 10, 12 and 14 to cover seasonal hatches
- Thread: Uni 6/0 in "Wine" (a perfect claret color)
- Tails: Dark pardo Coq-de-Leon tied in as split tails, 5 to 8 fibers per side depending upon hook size
- Underbody: Wine thread, wrapped smooth and slightly tapered
- Dubbing: Kreinik pure silk dubbing in olive brown, dubbed very thinly on the thread
- Wing: Enrico Puglisi's Trigger Point Fibers or Trigger Point Supreme Fibers in dark dun, fanned 180 degrees, comparadun style.

The silk dubbing is available online by ordering via Kreinik's website, www.kreinik.com. They will forward your order to one of the sewing shops that are Kreinik dealers, who will fill your order and ship your materials. Their metallic braids and silk threads are also interesting and useful materials for fly tying, so it is worthwhile to look through their site if you plan to order.

Our members went to their vises and tied *Isonychia* patterns of their choice. We saw some fine examples of Isos created on the spot. Bob Adams tied a beautiful variant, and Mike Gaines wrapped an emerger that utilized a CDC wing.



Guild member Andrew Sanders at the vise



Iso Variant tied by Bob Adams



Iso Emerger tied by Mike Gaines

2021 International Fly Tying Symposium



Members Bruce Concors, John Kavanaugh, and Alan Landheer will represent the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild at the International Fly Tying Symposium taking place later this month in Parsippany, New Jersey. If you are going to the symposium, please look for the guild's banner and stop by, say hello, chat, and see some great tying. New member signups will be available at the table.

The symposium will be held November 20 and 21 at the Parsippany Hilton, 1 Hilton Court, Parsippany, New Jersey.

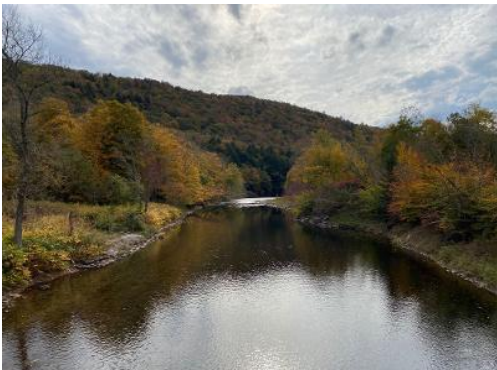
For more information, go to <https://internationalflytyingsymposium.com/>

New Members and Sharing the *Gazette*

It's fun to share, and the *Gazette* is often shared by forwarding copies to friends who are nonmembers of the guild. If you do this, please encourage those readers to join our mission and become members. Joining the guild is as simple as clicking on this link: <https://cftg.limitedrun.com>.



This newsletter depends on all guild members for its content. Items from nonmembers are welcome at the editor's discretion. Your articles, cartoons, photographs, reports of information, and bits of whatever else is interesting and fun are vital to this newsletter. Send submissions to Chuck Coronato, coronato3@verizon.net or 412 Highland Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ 07481 (201) 723-6230.



A view of Willowemoc Creek, looking downstream from Hazel Bridge on an autumn day.