

GAZETTE

Next Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 16th, 7:00pm

At the Rockland House

A Special Guest Demonstration By:

MARY DETTE CLARK (see page 8)

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO THE STATUS OF THE CATSKILL STYLE DRY FLY

REMINDER: The Guild was created with 4 principles in mind. They were, and continue to be, to:

- **Preserve, protect and enhance the Catskill fly tying heritage.**
- **Work cooperatively to promote the work of present Catskill fly tyers.**
- **Provide a forum for the sharing of information.**
- **Promote the development of future generations of Catskill fly tyers.**

COMMENTS RECEIVED:

As previously reported, a recent article in Fly Tyer magazine posed the question, "Are Catskill Flies Obsolete?". Based on that question, the editor of this newsletter conducted a survey on a couple of popular fly fishing Internet sites. Additionally, that survey was sent to members of the Guild to elicit their response. Here are the unedited comments of ALL of the surveys that were completed and returned:

* No, I don't think so. On cooler days when hatches string out and mayflies drift long distances drying their wings a Catskill dry will catch fish. They also have a place as a general attractor.

* No I don't think they are obsolete, but there are so many other types of flies and patterns out there that there is so much to choose from on the river

* Obsolete? SILLY QUESTION! OF COURSE NOT! WHEN ADULT MAYFLIES ARE FRISKY ON THE SURFACE A CATSKILL IS MY FIRST CHOICE. UNFORTUNATELY THAT IS LESS THAN 10% OF THE TIME WHERE AND WHEN I FISH. I ALSO FISH THEM AS SEARCHERS AND SOMETIMES PRE 1900 PATTERNS WHEN I FEEL ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO AND PART OF THE HISTORY OF FF. NO LESS AN AUTHORITY THAN GARY LAFONTAINE CONSIDERED ABOUT 2 CATSKILLS' ESSENTIAL TO HIS ARSENEL.

* Not obsolete, but I find the parachute style easier to tie and in most hatches more effective. So I tend to use the parachute more often.

* Not hardly! Catskill dries are an important element of my fly fishing arsenal. Admittedly, I rarely tie them with quill bodies but nearly all of my dry flies are Catskill patterns.

* I don't believe that they have become; I simply find them much less effective than some of the newer style of dry flies. I liken them to glass rods, compared to modern graphite.

* I do quite a lot of nymphing all season and terrestrial June through Oct, Dry fly fishing with Catskill style still very important here in east.

* You go with this man. I think the offending article is just an attempt at more consumer zombie-ism. Get rid of the old. Buy, buy, buy, buy the new.

* I still use em, just got into the CDC thing, since they are so easy to tie and so effective on my waters. They aren't obsolete.

* I generally use Catskill style flies for most of my dry fly fishing. They are the fly of choice for me. During longer hatches such as Sulphurs I will admit to using both Comparaduns and parachutes as the fish get more difficult to fool with traditional flies. I only wish that I could tie Catskill flies better. I have trouble with dividing wood duck wings, and I will no longer attempt a quill wing. If I can't make them I will buy them.

* Nope... I particularly find the Quill styles to be very effective.

* Catskill flies maybe waning in popularity among the fly buying public, but the fly tying crowd knows better. I really thought that that article in fly tyer was inaccurate conjecture, based on fly sales and not on the audience of the magazine.

* As the proverbial ROOKIE (only my second year), I personally think they are very useful not only to catch fish, but also to learn fly tying. I have taken the extra step in obtaining the books on the Darbee's and the Dette's so I could learn the history behind them, and use the actual steps and design patterns that make them what they are. I personally disagree with the article.

* No way!

* The rivers have changed and most people fish tailwaters and not freestone.

* Never happen.

* **LETTER:** From Don Bastian (excerpts of excerpted longer letter sent to Fly Tyer magazine)

I started tying flies in 1964. My father, Donald R. Bastian, gave my brother, Larry, & I a half-hour lesson, where he tied a Royal Coachman wet fly, and then a dry of the same pattern. After one tying lesson, dad turned over all his tying stuff to the two of us. My father also gave us his first-edition, ninth printing copy of TROUT(1938) by Ray Bergman, and a little book called How To Tie Flies(1940) by E.C. Gregg. We learned to tie with that one lesson from my father, from reading those two books, and through many countless hours of trial-and-error, self-instructed fly tying. During our teen years, Larry and I learned to tie (and fish) Catskill dries and traditional wet flies and streamers. Neither of us ever saw another person tie a fly until 1974 when we joined a local Trout Unlimited Chapter.

In the early 1990's I became a dyed-in-the-wool nymph fisherman regarding my fly fishing. My official Pennsylvania vehicle registration is 'NYMPHS'. Nevertheless, I love fishing dry flies as much as anything. Other than an occasional Letort Cricket and Letort Hopper, my first twenty-five years of fly fishing with dry flies was exclusively devoted to Catskill patterns. Up until I was thirty years old, virtually every trout I caught on a dry was hooked on a Catskill dry pattern. For nearly twenty years, nearly all the really large trout I took on dries were taken on big Fan Wing patterns, Bivisibles, Royal and White Wulffs.

Being a guide often forces one to experiment with fly patterns to see what works best on trout. During the 1991 and 1992 seasons, there were heavy hatches of large crane flies on Columbia County's Fishing Creek in Pennsylvania, where I was guiding. One day as a client and I watched several trout aggressively rising to take these fluttering crane flies, I began rooting through my fly boxes. In one compartment I found several Ginger Spiders. These were tied on short shank #16 hooks with an oversized hackle and a long tail. I gave one to my client to try, and he ended up having a very successful day on the water. It was through this experience that I 'introduced' the Ginger Spider to the Fishing Creek Outfitter's guide staff.

As far as dry flies go, I still prefer hackled patterns. I have fished Usuals, Comparaduns, Parachutes, and Marinaro Thorax Duns, No-hackle dries, floating emergers, etc. Morgan Lyle's First Wraps column in Summer 2003 Fly-Tyer motivated me to respond with this letter. I wish to make one observation regarding the Comparadun. Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi, co-authors of Hatches, introduced the Comparadun in the mid-1970's. This fly arrived on the scene at a time when it was becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain good quality dry fly hackle. At the time, I remember the best cape one could buy was an eight-

dollar Grade A Chinese or Indian neck. The Comparadun satisfied an immediate need of fly tiers in that no hackle was required.

A couple of years ago during one of my fly tying classes, John Ebeling of West Orange, NJ, asked me what dry fly style would be my one choice over selective trout. Without hesitation, I answered, "The Marinaro Thorax Dun." I went on to recall an incident on Spring Creek in Central PA around 1998. I was guiding two anglers in mid-May. After lunch, a good hatch of sulphur duns developed. Soon there were several dozen trout rising steadily in front of us. For half an hour they tried over a half dozen dry fly patterns on these trout. Comparaduns, Parachutes, No-hackles, and Sparkleduns, in various colors and sizes from #14 to #16 were cast without results. Rooting through my fly boxes, I found some #14 Vince Marinaro Thorax style Sulphur Duns. I offered one to the closest angler. It was decisively inhaled by a trout on his first cast. Of course his friend asked, "Got any more?"

Another point I will contend with a hackled fly on smooth water is this: Many trout streams and rivers receive intense fishing pressure. I feel the perceived lack of effectiveness that many anglers attribute to Catskill and other hackled dries is more prominently due to the experience of the angler than to the design of the fly. In other words, the trout are not 'hackle shy' because of the fly's components; they are 'drift shy' because of the way the fly is presented. The average fly angler on the water today lacks the skill to present a dry fly without micro-drag. Consequently, the trout refuses most dries because they don't like the way it drifts, not because it does or does not contain hackle.

Considering the roughly seventy-five year period in American fly fishing history when Catskill style dries ruled the surface of America's trout streams, the logical conclusion as to why they are no longer popular cannot be attributed solely to trout evolution. It is not possible that trout as a fish species have evolved into creatures that recognize hackled dry flies as unnatural and therefore unsafe as a food item. True, catch-and-release fishing does tend to cause trout to become increasingly harder to catch, but no one will ever convince me that the increased difficulty can be solved or reduced by the elimination of dry fly hackle. Hackle or no-hackle, to hook trout on dry flies in heavily fished streams requires the angler to constantly study, evaluate, plan, and develop new methods of presentation, improved tactics, and yes, new fly patterns.

I fish many small creeks and mountain streams in my home state. A Comparadun might be good on a smooth glide, but on rough pocket water, it's darned-near useless. Without hackle, flies do not float as well on pocket water. In Pennsylvania mountain streams, there are often tree limbs and rhododendron thickets that overhang the water's edge. We often do not have the luxury of wide-open space for repeated backcasts to dry the fly. George Harvey's three-hackle dry adaptation of Catskill patterns is great on fast water streams. Last week I had several enjoyable evenings on a local stream with a #12 Delaware Adams. Talk about hackle, this fly's not only got the traditional mix of brown and grizzly, but also a full-length palmer of grizzly over the body as well.

Dave Brandt of Oneonta, NY, is a great fly tier and a good friend. Like him, I promote the tying of Catskill dries whenever I can, not just because they are beautiful, but because they still catch trout!

*** LETTER From Keith: CATSKILL FLIES OBSOLETE ?**

No-hackle flies, comparaduns, thorax-duns, fluttering caddis, classic Catskill dry flies, they all work, but a traditionally hackled dry fly such as a typical Catskill pattern has practical advantages over more newly developed patterns that will make it forever a classic while many other dry fly designs will eventually disappear and be forgotten. In my opinion it is also esthetically the most appealing to the eye compared to other types of dry flies.

I started fly fishing for trout and tying my own dry flies back in the mid sixties. At that time almost all dry flies were of the classic Catskill design. When the no-hackles made their debut with the Swisher-Richards book I enthusiastically embraced them and tied all the patterns to match the hatches in sequence. They worked fine. Dressed heavily with floatant they would float on fast water and take trout as well as the classic Catskill patterns. One problem – no matter how well they were doused with floatant they just didn't float as well as a hackled fly and had to be changed more frequently. Eventually I gave up on them and returned to classic patterns. When Leonard Wright came out with his book on the caddis patterns, I religiously tied all those also. Here, at least, was a real contribution to dry fly fishing since the Catskill patterns were all may fly imitations. I still use variations of his designs, but simplified to just deer or elk hair for the down wing part, and they are hackled like a Catskill dry fly.

I believe that exact imitation is of little importance in a fly. This is, of course, especially true of attractor patterns, but even with a major hatch in progress, I believe that on moving water impression is more important than imitation. In order of importance I would rate size, silhouette, and color in any fly, dry or wet as the key elements. Of course, presentation is of equal importance, but this is true regardless of the type or pattern of fly.

All this business about the hackle on a Catskill dry fly not properly imitating an aquatic insect's legs and not looking realistic is hogwash. When I tie a classic dry fly I often insert the point of the bodkin into the eye of the hook and hold it out at arm's length to observe its silhouette against the light coming in through a window. I believe the hackle really is an impressionistic representation of the wings of a may fly. I like to see a silhouette that looks like the may flies I see in the air or in the water. A Catskill pattern has that silhouette. Furthermore, I believe that hackle which gives some "life" to the fly, is important. That is why flies with grizzly hackle mixed with another color such as brown or ginger is so effective. The variation in color pattern along with a wood duck feather wing or grizzly tips make the fly come alive. A Catskill dry fly construction lets you do this. Also the sheen or reflection of light of good quality cock hackle adds even more to the attractiveness of the fly.

Then there is the consideration of floatation. With a Catskill traditional pattern, the fly can be heavily hackled for fast water use or lightly hackled for slow or still water. In fact, the legendary Catskill fly tiers would custom tie flies for clients according to individual preferences including wing size, and tail lengths. Other designs are not as adaptable especially if they have little or no hackle. And yes, Mike Hogue, the Beaverkill still has great fast pocket water for heavily hackled flies. Horse Brook Run above Cairns and Railroad Run below Horton comes immediately to mind.

Therefore, in summary, the strengths of a classical hackled dry fly of the traditional Catskill type are: floatability, the color variation within the fly, and sheen created by the hackle as it is wound on the forward part of the fly, both of which impart a lifelike quality to the fly. Now on still, glassy water I don't know if these would be more important qualities than an exact imitation such as Al Caucci advocates. However, I never fish that kind of water. Perhaps it is important to have more exact imitations on rivers like the Delaware where the pools are long and still. However, on moderate sized trout streams such as the Beaverkill and Willowemoc the action is not in the middle of a long pool such as Cairns and Wagon Tracks, it is at the head of the pool where there is a tongue of water bringing food into the pool.

Furthermore on small to moderate trout streams such as the upper Willowemoc, it is not even important to have a large selection of patterns. In recent years since our hot eastern summers have decimated trout populations on streams such as the lower Beaverkill, I have paid more attention to the small tributaries that can sustain trout through the summer and often have surprisingly large holdover fish in them. I found I only need two mayfly patterns and a few caddis flies to insure success. The two mayfly patterns are simply the Adams (actually a Michigan pattern but a traditional dry fly pattern) and the Grey Fox Variant as tied by Art Flick. Normally the Adams will work if trout are rising, but if an attractor is needed the GFV will often bring them up. If there is a caddis hatch, almost any caddis pattern works, and the Adams still usually works too. Small flies are not necessary. #12 and #14 sizes work fine. This is truly minimalist fly fishing.

* The Catskill dry fly as evolved from Halford and Gordon is truly one of the most important developments of fly fishing. A classical design, it will live forever as long as anglers fly fish for trout.

* Personally, I don't buy it. I regularly use the Catskill flies here in Michigan and they work extremely well.

* All of my dry flies are what I consider Catskill-style with all wings the webbing part of a neck hackle. I do use strictly parachute hackle on all flies. On the West Delaware my Hendrickson will fish with the best,

* I usually go with the '*fly dujour*' as posted at the various shops. If not successful I then resort to an EHC, Rusty Spinner or something like that Almost always a dry fly or 5% wet/nymph, 5% streamer/bugger or 15% other stuff.

* Catskill Style dry flies worked yesterday, work today and will work tomorrow..... Period!

* What a joke! The traditional Catskill patterns set the bar for tying – tie something else to make a buck (or a name). Harry Darbee helped refine and taught me his tricks of the trade, and I really find that article offensive!

* Will not become obsolete but many of the traditional dry flies have seen some tweaking, changing the style and names. Catskill dry flies deal with the important color in matching the hatch and have a very pleasing look to them as well as floating well and catching well. For more reasons as well as the history behind them, they will continue to be important.

* Someone is crazy!

* They are not obsolete

* When trout are obsolete then Catskill style flies may become extinct.

* I am a commercial fly tyer for the only retail outlet in the Capital District (Albany) area. Half of all fly sales at the store(Goldstock's) are dry flies. Of that, for the last two seasons, Catskill style dry flies comprised 65% of the dries I've tied.

* Catskill style flies are here to stay!

* I think the article in Fly Tyer accomplished its intent, to aggravate the Catskill tyer. Catskill style dry flies obsolete??? Someone should tell Umpqua, Spirit River, Solitude, Montana Fly, Idylwilde, Targus, Orvis and all the other major fly companies that are selling thousands of “obsolete” flies.

* I am new to fly tying (2 yrs). I was taught Catskill style and that’s what I tie. I read the article in Fly Tyer. I think some may not want to tie Catskill style because they take ‘time’ to do right.

* Time of day, time of year (terrestrials, ants, hoppers, etc.), type of water, clear, fast, slow and depth. A parachute fly is a great aid for failing eyesight. The Catskill style dry fly is a classic capable of standing up to today’s patterns and materials.

* I find that they work well in conditions where the surface is slightly to moderately broken. In very flat water conditions I prefer more flush floating styles. In very broken water conditions I prefer comparadun style flies.

* In terms of their elegant simplicity and effectiveness, Catskill style dry flies are definitely not obsolete. With their form following their function, these beautiful flies work as well today as they ever did!

* Most of the ‘Catskill Style’ dry flies I tie are not really Catskill flies – Ausable Wulff, Mr. Rapidan, Adams, etc.

* Didn’t know they were – I guess I must be a dinosaur! My guess – Catskill flies, if they aren’t used much, are a result of cost of materials and time needed to learn to tie the style correctly and the time to tie the fly. Guides want cheap materials and quick ties. Comparaduns have no cost for material and tie fast. CDC is a little more expensive but very fast. It takes time to learn and to tie a Catskill fly. Also, a Catskill fly won’t work well if sloppily tied. A sloppy tied comparadun looks just like it does after the first fish takes it.

* When used in the manner for which they were first designed there is nothing better!

* I read the nonsense in Fly Tyer. Obsolescence is the result of technological advance, i.e. automobile replaced horse and wagon. Flies are both an art form and a fishing tool. Did Picaso make Rembrandt obsolete? From a practical fishing tool perspective, who can say flies other than Catskill will always be more effective? There are many new imaginative patterns, all performing well but hardly can they be said to make the Catskill patterns a thing of the past. Many hot new patterns disappear – look through magazines 10-12 years old. My guess anglers will be fishing the Catskill fly with success for many more years.

* No, they’re not obsolete. I use them on rivers in the Pacific Northwest and they work very well.

* They work best on the fast freestone streams they were designed for.

* While other flies may work better, some patterns will always be traditional.

* I mostly fish local Long Island waters and the dominant fly choices are parachutes or emergers. When the Green or Brown Drakes appear, the comparaduns are on the water.

* Not obsolete – They work well depending upon the conditions.

* Not! Certainly not obsolete. I use them with great(ok, I’m not a great flyfisher) success here in Michigan. Are bamboo rods obsolete?! No, of course not. I wish we had a group like you (*the Guild, ed*) here in MI. Hope to make it to Roscoe in the near future – maybe 2004. Thank you for including us guys from out of state. I really appreciate that.

* The Catskill style dry fly is part of our fishing heritage. It is more than a tradition and like ‘opening day’, the first cast or that special rise, has to be preserved for future generations.

* No. For many of the flies in the Adirondacks where I fish 60% of the time, they are perfect.

* Obsolete? Never! A lot of my angling friends, older guys are reverting more & more to early traditions like bamboo rods, dry fly fishing, early patterns, early 20th century literature. All are looking for the “total” fishing experience.

* That is patent Bullshit!!!

* I still find the Catskill style flies to be most effective. I don’t believe they are obsolete. I know I’ll always reach for a Catskill fly first out of my fly box.

* I feel most flies are sport shop or merchandizing ploys. The old patterns like Black Gnat or Royal Coachman still work well. Fish a year without a Red Quill or a March Brown and watch your fish count drop.

- * It's the first style of dry you learn to tie and probably the first trout you ever caught was on a Catskill style dry.
- * I cannot think of any fly, tied anywhere in the world that has caught fish as being obsolete. If anything, there is a greater variety of flies than ever to fish with and this is a tribute to our creativity and the result of our beloved fish.
- * Thirty-five years ago I was 'taken in' by Walt & Winnie (*Dette's*) as one of their "stray cats". Later I was asked to tie for them (one of the top highlights of my fly fishing life, for sure!). I still tie for Mary. Back then a fishing day started with a visit to the Dette's early in the am for flies & river conditions. Later in the day we'd stop at the Darbee's for flies and materials. Days end would find us at Walt & Winnies to give our report. A Golden Age, no doubt! This is a long winded way to say the Catskill style dries are a vital part of my fishing and tying. This goes ditto for other Dette "stray cats".
- * Two years ago I was fishing in Colorado to large trout in still water. The missus tied on a Ginger Quill Catskill style and proceeded to catch fish, big fish. They will never be obsolete.
- * Actually my answers are based on fishing here in the Catskills. On spring creeks I would say it would be quite different and out west I'd use a bigger bushier fly a lot, Wulff style. Everything depends on the water being fished.
- * There are a lot of 'experts' in this world of ours. Definition of expert: 'x' is an unknown and 'pert' is a drip under pressure.
- * They are standard patterns because they work for over 70 years!
- * Given the proper conditions, this type of dry fly is just as effective as it was on day one. Nothing is tied on my leader until streamside observation tells me what type of fly to use.

SURVEY RESULTS *(numerical analysis of the responses to each question)*

1. When fly fishing for trout with dry flies, are any of the flies you use Catskill Style?

NO: 4 (5 %). YES: 78 (95 %) Total: 82 (100 %)

2. **Over the course of a season**, about what percent of the dry flies that you use are Catskill Style?

less than 25%: 14 (18 %) between 25% and 50%: 21 (27 %)

between 50% and 75%: 24 (31 %) more than 75%: 19 (24 %)

Total: 78 (100 %)

3. What style of fly do you usually try as your first **dry fly**?

Parachute: 8 (11 %) Comparadun or similar: 8 (11 %) Terrestrial: 0 (0 %)

Catskill Style: 49 (65 %) other style: 10 (13 %) Total - 75 (100 %)

4. What percent of **dry flies** that you tie **for your own use** are Catskill Style?

Total: 3750 % / 73 Total Responses to Question = Average Response: 51 %

Responses received to the Survey by State or other: (41) NY; (3) MA; (1) W. VA; (4) MI; (8) PA; (9) NJ; (2) MO; (2) CT; (1) AZ; (1) KS; (1) WA; (1) UT; (1) CAN; (1) VA; (1) CA; (1) ME; (1) N. CAR; (1) MN; (1) VT; (1) MD

Thanks to All Who Took the Time to Complete the Survey!!!

The International Fly Tying Symposium

Nov 22, 23 2003

**at the Doubletree Hotel,
Somerset, NJ**

Just off I-287 , Exit 10

Sat 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Sun 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Slide Shows

TBA

Featured Tyers

TBA

Special Limited Classes

Watch for details

the Symposium Director is Chuck Furimsky:

phone 814-926-2676

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Doubletree Hotel, 1-732-469-2600 - mention the Symposium for Special Rates.

Mary Dette

(Excerpt from THE LAST ORIGINAL FLY-TIER', an article by Jacob S. Kline, which appears in the Catskill Mountain Region Guide, September, 2003, pages 48 & 50)

The last of the original Catskill-School style fly tiers lives in Roscoe, NY, a quaint fishing town on the southwest fringe of the Catskill Mountains. Together, gas stations and grocery stores are out-numbered by fly shops in Roscoe, which should be expected from a town dubbed "Trout Town U.S.A." and Mary Dette's family was one of the first to open such a business.

Mary Dette Clark carries out a legacy left behind by her parents, Walt and Winnie Dette, not in an elaborate, well-noticed store on Stewart Avenue (Roscoe's main street), but at the same place her parents ran the business – their home. There's no advertisement, nothing that indicates the business or the quality of the product, except for the small plywood sign outside of the house that is painted with the phrase, "Dette Trout Flies – Wlat, Winnie, Mary." "Ring bell and walk in," reads a note taped to the door of the house on Cottage Street. While a first time customer may feel hesitant about freely opening the door and walking into someone's house, Mary quickly relaxes the situation by greeting visitors with an enormous welcoming smile that would draw any customer back for business or just simply to visit.

The fly shop is a tiny side-room in the house that would make a submariner claustrophobic. In the front of the room are cases of thousands of dry and wet flies, nymphs and streamers hand tied by Mary and her hired helpers. Toward the back of the room, burdened by walls of books, filing cabinets full of fly recipes and fly-tying materials, are two desks, both of which are well suited for the petite, grey-haired, 72-year-old-woman.

As elegant as the classical music being played from an old radio in the background, Mary, with her gentle fingers, gracefully ties a Red Quill dry fly for a devoted customer. "My customers either call or mail their orders," Mary says. "Some have read about me in articles, but a lot of them are old-time, loyal customers." Although she claims not to be a very quick tier, within minutes she adds a final "whip finish" knot that holds her masterpiece together. "I can't sit for that long anymore, so at the most I tie a couple of dozen a day," she says as she peeks up from behind the vise.

With orders thumb-tacked all over a board hanging near her desk, Mary stays quite busy tying Catskill-style flies on demand. While other fly-tiers still tie Catskill-style flies, none of them has been born into the tradition or been taught by such legends as Mary.

The concept of the Catskill-style fly that Walt learned to tie, and which Mary still ties today, was first introduced by Theodore Gordon in the late 1890s. Wet flies were the norm for the period. Dry flies were thought to be beneficial only in the calm-flowing English rivers; though through much research Gordon was able to create flies that better imitated the native hatches of the Catskill waters. Gordon's signature fly, which not only imitated a single insect, but could be compared to a number of different insects was called the Quill Gordon. It is still heavily fished today. "The wings are above the hackle, and the hackle is stiff, with a nice stiff tail," Mary says of the Catskill-style fly. "They are also much more sparse."

While Gordon established the Catskill style of fly-tying, Rube Cross's obsession with detail drastically improved the dry fly. "Gordon understood the concept of a stiff hackle, but Rube Cross is more what we tie today," says Dennis Skarka, owner of Catskill Flies fly shop on Stewart Avenue in Roscoe. "Some say it's a more eloquent fly."

Mary didn't actually begin tying flies until after her first son was born in 1955. She asked her father to teach her, and he did. She started tying for money as an addition to the family business. "I just enjoyed it," she says. "I have so many wonderful people who come into the store, and in the winter I get a lot of people who call and just check to see how I am doing."

Even though she has been featured in renowned fishing magazines, Mary said she's like her farther in that she is not caught up in the glamour. "I tie very good flies, but a lot of the publicity is because of my parents," she says humbly. "They've made such a great name for themselves and they were so well known that I just fell into it."

Poul (Poul Jorgensen) is a member of the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame and is best known for his realistic style of salmon fly tying. He has written and photographed for a handful of books on the subject and is an avid fly fisherman himself. "Mary is the last of the originals, and her flies are superb," he says as he sips on his third cup of coffee at the famous Roscoe Diner.

Through her father and his propositions with Rube Cross, Mary is the last direct descendant of the "Father of American Fly Fishing" – Theodore Gordon. Mary continues to give back to the sport she has grown to love. She regularly donates her time and her flies to the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor, NY where both of her parents have been inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, and to other fishing organizations.

Mary plans to continue tying for as long as she feels capable, and right now she feels like she can go on for a long time. She also provides the local fishing report daily during trout season, which she sees as one of her best advertising tools. "It's some-

thing my father started, and he always said to be honest, so I have continued with it.” She personally checks the temperatures of the Willowemoc Creek and the Beaverkill River, and obtains other river conditions, which she makes available to the fishermen by an answering machine over the phone. “I have people call up from as far as Texas to get the fishing report,” Mary says.

The Guild is extremely fortunate, and it will be a privilege, to see Mary tie some flies at our October meeting. If you can attend, you won't soon forget what you see and the skills of this very gracious lady. (editor)

Upcoming Activities with Guild Participation:

- 1) **Int'l. Fly Tyer's Symposium:**
Information elsewhere in this newsletter.
- 2) **World of Fly Fishing**, Danbury CT.,
January 2, 3 and 4, 2004.
- 2) **The Fly Fishing Show**, NJ Exhibit Center,
Somerset, NJ, January 23, 24 and 25, 2004.
We need to provide at least 3 door prizes for this show so that we may continue to get free space. Fly selections are suggested and definitely appropriate for the Guild. If you have any flies to donate, please see that Judie DV Smith gets them when convenient but before January 1, 2004. Please label them "Show Donation". You probably should place a toe tag on each fly with pattern name and your name.

Guild Meeting dates:

Oct. 16, 2003 (Thurs) @ 7 pm, Rockland House
Nov. 15, 2003 (Sat) @ 1 pm, Rockland House
Dec. 20, 2003 (Sat) @ 1 pm, Rockland House

FOR SALE:

Payne Model 208, 9 foot three section trout rod, believed to have been owned and used by Albert E. Hendrickson (Hendrickson Fly), later given to his nephew Samuel Allison Hendrickson and finally left to the current owner. The rod had been well used but then totally refinished by Jim Payne just prior to his death and not used since. One tip is an inch shorter, reflecting that use but it is in excellent condition as determined by CFFC Museum consultant Dave Catizone. The case is marked and scratched as a favored rod container should be. Please make offer to: C. Scott Sampson (607) 869-2335 or e-mail: Ssampson @ capital.net

NEEDED

Appreciate everyone's help. I'd like to develop a list of books that deal with the rivers, people, flies, history associated with fly fishing in the Catskills. The books can be historical like Francis' CATSKILL RIVERS; quasi-fictional like S.G. Hackle's FISHLESS DAYS, ANGLING NIGHTS; about fishing/tying techniques; about people; fishing in the area, etc. Please mail or email any titles (include author, publisher and publication date) you can think of to me. The list that is developed will appear in future issues of this newsletter. Thanks. Allan Podell (addresses in box below)

The Catskill Fly Tyer's Guild GAZETTE is issued 5 or 6 times per year to members. Membership is only \$10 per year. New, first time members also get a FREE copy of the booklet "Favorite Rivers, Favorite Flies" as well as discounts on Guild patches and pins. WANT TO JOIN THE GUILD or GIVE A FRIEND A Great GIFT? Just complete this form, mail it and a check to: CFTG, PO Box 0663, Roscoe, NY 12776-0663. REMEMBER, memberships renew in February.
Newspaper contacts:
Allan Podell, 100 Glen Ave., Elmira, NY 14905. (607)734-6257. Email: apodell @ stny.rr . com
Judie DV Smith. Email: Darbee1 @ junoo . com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

(optional) email address: _____