

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

# GAZETTE

October, 2004

## **PLEASE NOTE: NEXT MEETING**

*Saturday, October 16, 1:00pm, Presentation by: Andy Brasko  
Education Building of the CFFC & M*

## **NEW SHOW: THE ARTS OF THE ANGLER:**

Presented by Flyfishing University

An event for all Fly Tyers, Rod Builders, Fly Fishing Collectors and an auction of fishing equipment, accessories and collectibles in conjunction with the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum and The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild. Supported and sponsored by The Ardent Angler Radio Program, Fly Fishing New England Magazine, Fly Tyer, American Angler, and Saltwater Fly Fishing magazines, and The Famous Grouse Scotch Whiskey.

November 13 & 14, 2004 at The Danbury Sheraton Hotel Conference Center, Danbury, CT.

\* **Fly Tying** - Over 75 fly tyers will be providing demonstrations on tips and techniques on constructing their proven patterns.

\* **Fly Tying Master Classes** - Flyfishing University's brand new courses developed to make every tyer a better tyer. Spend a whole day in class and learn the best from the best in fly tying. Each full day class will have 7 instructors, teaching their expertise on a specific tying subject.

\* **Rod Building** - Bamboo, fiberglass, and graphite rod construction seminars and clinics from a gathering of the finest rod builders. Pick up first hand knowledge from rod builders and find out just what is so special in building new rods and how to refinish old.

\* **Collectibles** - Featuring a wide variety of vendors availing the finest in collectibles for fly fishing and outdoor sporting collectors. Artwork, books, tackle, accessories, flies, and other outdoor related items.

\* **Auction** - Saturday night at 7pm the gavel will hit the hardwood to auction off many angling and sporting items assembled for the benefit of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum and consignments received up to that date.

\* **Vendors and Exhibitors** - A diverse group has been assembled to provide a wide variety of fly tying materials, rod building supplies and components, antique and gently used equipment and accessories, and collector items.

For more information on this exciting new show, classes or consigning personal equipment, books, tackle or collectibles for the auction, visit the Flyfishing University at: [www.flyfishingu.net](http://www.flyfishingu.net) or call: 203-746-4121.

Show Hours: Saturday Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30AM-5PM, \*Buffet Dinner 5:30PM, \*Auction 7PM.

Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM - 4PM. Daily admission \$10 or \$15 for both days.

The number of Guild members who may tie is unlimited. If we really have a lot, I would put them in another ballroom as I have committed to the downstairs ballroom and the upstairs ballroom with anticipation that we will have a large crowd. Of course if they are tyers, they would get admission at no charge. We could make this like the rendezvous and have as many as you want. I think this would be a great gathering for all fly tyers in addition to the show.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TYING AT THIS EVENT for a half day, a full day or both days, YOU MUST CONTACT Judie DV Smith: darbee1@juno.com, by Oct. 15th**

## HELP WANTED

**Fly-tyers for the NJ. shows are needed.** First we need 5 tyers for the International Symposium at Somerset Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, a Saturday and Sunday. We are setting up slots for a limited number of tyers in order to lengthen the tying time allotted each tyer. There will be 2 & 3 hr. slots. Previously we attempted to find a slot for all tyers and the tying times were shortened to do that; this new approach lengthens the times and limits the tyers as we will not adjust the tying times. When we have 12 tyers we are closing the roster so contact me at once so we can assign you a time. We will give priority to tyers who are not given a time in Nov. at the Jan show which is again at Somerset Jan. 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. If you wish to tie there please contact me as we are now beginning to sign up tyers for that show. Remember we want tyers to tie appropriate patterns as you are representing the CFTG. Reach me by E-mail [pmurphy100@patmedia.net](mailto:pmurphy100@patmedia.net) or phone evenings 7:00 to 9:00 (908)-879-7929.

If you have not participated before give it a try, it's a lot of fun and you'll meet some great people not to mention picking up some pointers from the tyers you meet.

Paul Murphy - NJ Show Chairman.

### **International Fly-Tyer's Symposium Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2004**

The International Flytyer's Symposium is scheduled for the above dates and the Guild has been offered and has accepted a table to demonstrate our skills. The location is Somerset, NJ. We were uncertain initially if we could bring enough tyers together to fill the necessary hours: Sat. 9:00 to 5:00 and Sun. 9:00 to 4:00. After polling our core tyers, we received enough commitments to move ahead and the Guild has informed the promoter that we can provide tyers and would appreciate a space.

While contacting tyers for the show we found many tyers felt that the 2 hour time slots we have set up in the past were too short and several suggested we go to 3 hour periods. After consulting with our Directors I am offering 6 – 3hr. slots and 6-2hr. slots, that's the only way the total hours can be broken down. The result is we will only have tying time for 12 tyers. In the past we have accommodated all volunteers but that has meant shortening the tying times to do so.

Note, we will limit the number of tyers to 12. In contacting tyers, so we could make this commitment, 5 tyers are already signed on. If you wish to tie please contact me as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed as once 12 tyers are registered the list will be shut off. Contact Paul Murphy at [pmurphy100@patmedia.net](mailto:pmurphy100@patmedia.net) or call 908-879-7929 evenings 7:00 to 9:00.

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### **Choosing the Right Thread: By Mike Hogue**

Thread is a confusing topic to some no doubt because of all the really good choices we as fly tyers have. I didn't realize that I had so much thread until I decided to redo all of my thread displays for some of the upcoming winter shows. Thread itself isn't very confusing. We are lucky that there is simply a lot of really good product out there on the market now. A fair number of these threads are a lot alike and it is for that reason that I think some people get confused. The 2 most common ways to evaluate thread are the "ought" system and the denier system.

In the ought system as the number increases the size falls. For example 8/0 is SMALLER than 6/0. In the Denier system as the number raises the size increases. A 70 denier thread is smaller than a 210 denier thread. The big trouble is trying to compare say a 70 denier with a 6/0. How do you compare? Sometimes you can't until you pull some of the thread off and spool it up. You will see and feel the difference (or you should be able). More or less, 210 denier is about 3/0 sized. A couple of other things are the flat twisted versus spun threads. Flat threads are turned, a typical example is the Danville thread which is a flat thread. UNI thread is almost always twisted. Sometimes this style of thread has a glue used to bind the fibers together. The main difference (in some tyer's eyes) is that a flat thread binds tighter, ties and blends better. A spun thread can be argued that it has more strength. A flat (unwaxed) thread also has the advantage of being able to split the thread with a dubbing needle so that you can dub with a single strand.

Most thread is polyester or rayon that is spun. Some threads like Kevlar are supposed to be a miracle thread in that it doesn't break. Kevlar is slick, doesn't lay flat and it will score a bobbin and wreck scissors. I do not recommend it. GSP is a Kevlar that is spun with Polyester and it supposed is a bit easier to use and has smaller diameters. It is very expensive in that it can be as high as \$4.50 for a 50 yard spool. It also doesn't come in many colors.

Another confusion is British versus American. British spools are narrow sewing machine bobbins. You purchase nice metal spools at sewing and discount stores and rewind them with an electric drill, although standard British spools will fit in any American Bobbin. Some tyers prefer this size for tying midges.

A few tips: Breaking threading has been blamed on bobbins, the thread and all sorts of issues. 99% of the time the thread breaks because you nick the hook. I will repeat this: 99% of the time the thread breaks because you nick the hook. Would you like me to explain this again? Usually this happens because you are turning the thread in a circle. As you turn you hit the point of the hook. There are 2 solutions: remove the hook and insert the hook deep into the jaws of your vise. This blocks the point and prevents you from striking the point. Solution 2: Turn thread in an oval. If you turn the thread at perpendicular motion you will always strike the point of the hook. If you change the angle and turn the thread at a 15-20 degree slant and turn in an oval you will NEVER hit the hook point.

Tiny heads are some of the most prized skills of a true master tyer. Here is the one tip no one told you. For salmon flies, many tiers have the real head and the "show" head. They make the fly such that the real head is hidden in the wing. The head exposed is false head, so in effect there are two heads to the fly. Think about this for a minute. I am stacking 40 colors of goose, horns and all this other stuff and the head is supposed to be the size of a pin? Right. Can't happen. OH, now I get it! Another tip: Use less wraps. This will make the head smaller. I often wind up into the head then taper it down. I can do this with a whip finisher. This same technique I use on wets. I have seen all these issues about folding hackle, twisting wings, complicated instructions for hackling wets, horse hockey! If you hold a soft hackle tight and wind into it then make the head it is perfect every time. Winging buck tail. It is generally assumed that if you put a flat cone the size of your thumb on a buck tail it hold the wing really well. WRONG! All you are doing is reducing your inventory of thread by burning up a ton of it. Actually go ahead Danville and UNI will love you for it! Bucktails and hair wings are held by the first 3-4 wraps. The rest of the thread is a waste. To make a nice head, make 1-2 wraps to secure the hair. Then clip the hair tight at a 45 degree angle to the hook exposing the eye. Wrap the thread down to the eye and then taper it down. Go back over the tie in point and make a really tight 1-2 wraps behind the point where you tied in the wing. The wing will almost never pull out.

Crowded eyes. Most eastern tyers or older tyers had a large open space behind the eye. Years ago this was done because gut was used as a tippet and you had to slide the knot through the eye from behind, making a small collar with gut behind the eye of the hook. Today, we don't need to do this. I tend to have a much more crowded thread because I learned to tie in the Midwest. We felt that dries balanced better if the wings were more forward. A true Catskill tyer's wings are more likely in almost the center of the hook if you compare dries of the same design. A common mistake is to crowd the eyes. To avoid this, I simply start the thread back about 1-2 eye lengths. This avoids crowding the eyes and will remind you not to jam the wing so tight to the eyes. This same idea transfers to saltwater and bass flies. When I make Clouser minnows, I mount the eye about 3-4 lengths back giving me lots of room to tie in 2 bucktail wings.

There you have it. Wind yourself up.

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**Fly Tyer's Master Class:** Learn How to Tie Wet Flies: One day seminar with Don Bastion. Don is one of the Northeast's premier fly tyers. Don's flies have been featured in the Art of Angling Journal and Forgotten Flies. Don has also tied the entire set of 500 Ray Bergman flies from the book Trout. He does beautiful work! Don will show how to make married wings, quill wing wets and many traditional patterns. This is a great opportunity to learn how to tie some very effective flies. Saturday Oct. 23, 2004, 9-4pm. Cost: \$75.00, lunch provided. Class size limited to 10 people.  
For more information contact: Mike Hogue, Badger Creek Fly Tying, 622 W. Dryden Road, Freeville, NY 13068, [www.eflytyer.com](http://www.eflytyer.com) or 607-347-4946.

## **LETTERS**

1) I am a member and I totally agree with you on "The Guild's Video Project", let's get Vol.# 1 out there and start Vol. # 2. I live in Toms River, N.J. (3 hour drive from Roscoe) and it's hard to try and explain to some of the folks, how much things like this tape means to someone like me, who can't be up in that neck of the woods all the time. I'm 50 yrs old (damn!) and work full time. So many times it's a weekend here or there or vacation days have to be used to get up to the rivers and events. (Enough soap-boxin')

The idea of a once in the while roving meeting is also awesome !!

Once again, great job on a very well done newsletter,

Jim Martin

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2) I just got back from Montana and Idaho and read the letter sent to you by Chris D. concerning roving meetings. I understand the demographics of our membership because I am one who can't drive 150 mi. each month to attend meetings. I live in Syracuse and if I am down fishing on a day that a meeting is scheduled I usually attend. Or if there is something special on the agenda I will make it a point to drive down. Even though I can't make many meetings, I am adamantly opposed to the idea of roving meetings for the following reasons:

\* We are the "Catskill Fly Tyers Guild" not the New Jersey Guild or the Western New York Guild or any other guild. Members know this when they sign up and pay their dues. Members should come to the Catskills for meetings and not the other way around.

\* Moving meetings around will only move the problem around. By moving meetings around we risk losing the members who attend regularly now. Those members are very valuable and I would dare say that they are the true "Catskill Fly Tyers" who grew up there and learned the art from the masters.

\* My third reason is a totally selfish one and one that I am proud of. I grew up in Phoenicia during the 50s & 60s and spent time as a kid watching Ray Smith tie flies in the back room of the old Kincaid house where he lived with his wife Christine and son Cal. My parents bought the old Barber place that Mac Francis talks about in his book Catskill Rivers and my parents spent many Saturday nights in our living room playing pinochle with Ray and Christine. My dad operated a small diner in town that was a great gathering place for fishermen and he spent many hours along the stream with Ray. As a boy I took all of this for granted. Now, at 59 years old I realize how fortunate and blessed I was to have grown up surrounded by such rich "Catskill" fly tying Heritage. So these are my two logical reasons and one selfish one for opposing the idea of roving meetings. Perhaps if all members shared the same youthful experiences as I have they would agree with me. Let's keep the tradition and keep the meetings in the "Catskills". Thanks for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion.

George Loveless

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3) Cutting to the chase here...the tapes.

Numero uno, at least as I see it, is if you guys don't take the camera and make the tapes the rest is all academic, as there will be nothing to see or preserve! So make the tapes.

Now as too what to do with the tapes, ...ahhhhh that is the thorny question as I see it. How about selling the copies to anybody not just members? This could/would/should raise some \$\$\$ for the Guild and get some good PR. Plus the cost of the camera and equipment would be amortized over time. Non-Guild members would learn about the Guild and support it by buying the copies. This could be a win/win situation. I am not close enough to get involved with any of this (smart huh?) but you said you wanted comments and here is one.

By the way our MA/RI TU Council published a paperback book (200 pages with maps) on trout fishing in Massachusetts in the late 1980's. The \$\$\$ made by this book in the last 20 years has approached \$40,000.00!!!! We are in the process of updating it and expect to see it bring in even more money in the future. It has been, by far, our best fundraiser. If these DVD's are published in volumes (Vol. #1, Vol. #2 etc.) the skies the limit as far as funds go I think! Howie Strathie

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## **A WELCOME AND REMINDER FOR OLD AND NEW MEMBERS**

At first (FALL, 1998), having a newsletter for our Guild seemed like a good idea and it is. There are so many possible topics: the Catskill style of fly tying; patterns that have become known as traditional Catskill patterns; non-traditional and non-Catskill styles that are used in Catskill rivers; Catskill rivers and stories about them; historical flies; prospectives of specific people, the contributions they made and their legacy; contemporary tyers; new fly designs; new materials; how Catskill flies and fishing techniques compare to other parts of the country; and I'm sure there are more topics that you can think of.

The trick however, is putting words to paper that are accurate. Promote and reflect the primary mission of the Guild, make interesting reading and increase participation by the membership in Guild activities and activities that improve fly fishing.

I'm sitting here trying to think of some brilliant topic or story I can write that will convince or prompt you to submit something for the next or a future issue of this newsletter. The Guild now has about 250 members. Individually and collectively we have a wealth of knowledge, memories, information, tips, ideas. etc. You can write something about an old fly fishing book you have. If you've just read a recently published book, write a short review and tell us what you thought about it. Tried a new material? How did it compare to the manufacturers claims or compare to what it was supposed to replace? Maybe you can write about an experience you've had: Maybe a fly tying technique that may not be generally known: Maybe you want to comment about something you've seen in a magazine, this newsletter or while astream: Maybe there's something you've wanted to get off your chest for awhile but had no way of doing it. Maybe you have a rod, a reel, some old flies, fly tying material or something else you haven't used and you want to advertise it for sale. The point is that there are many ways for members to participate in this newsletter. A concern I have is how to handle a controversial topic or censorship. The newsletter has no editorial board and therefore no set rules. Since I don't want to alter what you write or reject what is submitted, I simply ask that you use reasonable judgment and keep the language clean. Also, if you want to submit something and prefer to use a false name for the author that's ok. Just place the name you want listed as the author below what you have submitted and your real name [in brackets] next to author name. Also include your address and phone number so if I, or someone, have a question or need information, I can get in touch with you. Like all others, this is going to be a long winter. I'm looking forward to reading what many of you have in your collected libraries of knowledge and experience.

This newsletter is prepared and sent out 6x a year. The following chart may help you understand the issuing schedule and submission deadlines for stories, letters to editor, articles, information, ads, etc.

Issue Month/Submit by the 15<sup>th</sup>

December/November

February/January

April/March

June/May

August/July

October/September

## **BOOKS:**

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Below is a list of books that, specifically or indirectly, deal with Catskill fly fishing. If you have read any of these books, how about sending me a rating based on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best). If there is a book(s) you'd like to add to the list, send the title, author and rating for that too. As I get your ratings I'll incorporate them into the list. A. Podell

AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE
Atherton	The Fly and the Fish	Koller	Taking Larger Trout
Bashline	Night Fishing for Trout	Koller	Treasury of Angling
Bates	Streamer Fly Tying	LaBranche	Dry Fly and Fast Water
Bergman	Fishing With Ray Bergman	LaFontaine	Challenge of the Trout
Bergman	Just Fishing	Leisenring	The Wet Fly
Bergman	Trout	Leiser	Book of Fly Patterns
Blades	Fishing Flies and Fly Tying	Leiser	Complete Book of Fly Tying
Camp	Taking Trout With the Dry Fly	Leiser	Fly Tying Materials
Caucci/Nastasi	Compara Hatch (pb)	Leiser	The Dettes
Caucci/Nastasi	Fly Tyers Color Guide	Marbury	Favorite Flies & Their Historie
Caucci/Nastasi	Hatches	Marinaro	Modern Dry Fly Code
Caucci/Nastasi	Instant Mayfly Identification (pb)	Martin	Fly Tying Methods
Cross	Complete Fly Tyer	Martin	Micropatterns
Darbee	Catskill Fly Tyer	McClane	New Standard Encyclopedia
Flick	New Streamside Guide	McClane	Practical Fly Fisherman
Fox	Rising Trout	McDonald	Complete Fly Fisherman -
Fox	The Wonderful World of Trout	McDonald	Quill Gordon
Francis	Catskill Rivers	Menard	My Side of the River
Gregg	How to Tie Flies	Peper/LaFontaine	Fly Fishing the Beaverkill (pb)
Henshall	Book of the Black Bass	Probst	Trout Stream Insects
Herter	Minnnows of North America (pb)	Proper	What the Trout Said
Hert er	Professional Fly Tying	Schmookler/Sils	Forgotten Flies
Hidy	Wet Fly Fishing	Schweibert	Matching the Hatch
Holden	Streamcraft	Solomon/Leiser	The Caddis and the Angler
Jennings	Book of Trout Flies	Talleur	Versatile Fly Tyer
Jorgensen	Collection of Fly Plates	VanPut	The Beaverkill
Jorgensen	Dressings for Fresh and Salt	Wright	Fishing the Dry Fly, Living Ins
Jorgensen	Dry Fly Patterns for the New Millenium (pb)	Wright	Fly-Fishing Heresies (pb)
Jorgensen	Modern Dressings for the Practical Angler	Wright	Neversink
Koch	Fishing the Midge		
Schaldach - Currents & Eddies		Norris, Thaddeus – American Angler's Book	
Smedley, Harold – Fly Patterns and their Origins		Ulrich, Heinz – How Experts Catch Trophy Fish	
Schwiebert, Ernest – Remembrances of Rivers Past		Darbee, Harry – Compact Book of Fisherman's Tricks,	
Slocum, Eugene – Ye Gods and Little Fishes		Tips & Hints	
Heacox, Cecil – The Compleat Brown Trout		Rhead, Louis – The Speckled Brook Trout	
Burke, Edgar – American Dry Flies and How to Tie Them			

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**WINNER** of the raffled Jack Yelle print, CFTG patch & pin in frame was – Caren Samuels of Livingston Manor, NY. Congratulations Caren!

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. Or email: apodell @ stny. rr . com  
Judie DV Smith. Email: Darbee1 @ jun0 . com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to accept this  
Newsletter via email?

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (please provide) \_\_\_\_\_ No

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**We appreciate the support of the:**

**Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum**

**Rockland House**

Motel \* Lounge \* Fine Dining  
P.O. Box 220, Rockland Road  
Roscoe, NY 12776  
607-498-4240

**and other area businesses**

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## CONTEST – What do you know about Theodore Gordon?

All the answers to the following 10 questions can be found in the writings of Theodore Gordon. The person who submits the most correct answers will win a nice prize. At the end of your answers, write a number from 1 to 12 on your answer sheet. It will be used to break a tie if there is one. Use this page to respond. It should be mailed to me (address is in the box above) and in my hands by November 20<sup>th</sup>. The answers and winner will be announced in the December issue of this newsletter. There will be another contest next issue too.

1. T.G. not only knew about goose biots, he used them, among other feathers, for quill bodies. True or False
2. According to T.G., the pattern ‘the Beaverkill’ pattern was a)originated in England; b)about 1865; c)thought to be an imitation of a hovering mayfly.  
Possible Answers: A only; A + B only; A + B + C; B only
3. T.G. preferred clump style wings but when he tied split wings he tied each slip concave side to concave side. True or False
4. Who was T.G. referring to when he used the name Val Conson?
5. According to T.G., what is the past tense of the fly fishing method ‘dapping’?
6. How did T.G. refer to the smell of skunk? A) bouquet of the forest B) bouquet of animal feces  
C) bouquet of maggot infestation D) Bouquet of mephitis
7. What natural material did T.G. prefer for the body of the ‘Grannom’ pattern? A) Rabbit B) Beaver  
C) Muskrat D) Mole
8. What river was T.G. referring to when he wrote, “The \_\_\_\_\_ is an ambitious river and wishes to occupy the whole valley”.  
A) Beaverkill B) Neversink C) Willowemoc D) Esopus
9. According to T.G., based on information documented at the time: a) when was the dry fly first used in America; b) who wrote about it; and c) on which river?
10. Which was T.G.’s nickname for brook trout? A) Mr. Spots b) Mr. Worms c) Master Trout d) Master Speckles?

Place Answers Here:

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9a \_\_\_\_\_ 9b \_\_\_\_\_ 9c \_\_\_\_\_  
10 \_\_\_\_\_

Pick a number from 1 to 12: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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