

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild



GAZETTE

October 2005

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will be on Saturday, October 15, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. Joe Ceballos will be tying a Hornberg streamer. Bring your vise and the following materials and tie along:

Hook: Streamer hook, 2X to 4X long, sizes 4 to 10

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Silver tinsel (flat)

Wing (inner): Two yellow saddle hackles (original), or yellow bucktail or yellow calf tail

Wing (outer): Two barred gray mallard flank feathers

Cheeks: Jungle cock or equivalent

Hackle: Grizzly or grizzly and brown

Head: Black thread

Future Meetings and Programs

There will be no meeting in November 2005 because of fly-fishing-show commitments.

The December meeting will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. The schedule for the January meeting is still to be determined because of the January fly-fishing shows.

Help! We need someone to schedule tyers for future guild meeting programs. If you can help, contact Judie DV Smith at darbee1@juno.com or Hank Rope at (845) 254-5904 or e-mail tyeflys@aol.com.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Fly Tyers Rendezvous will be held on April 22, 2006, at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. Mike Hogue will be contacting previous tyers. If you aren't contacted by the November shows, please contact him. New tyers will be accepted as space allows. This is a little later in the month because of Easter the week

before. Maybe the weather will be agreeable and everyone will be able to get out and fish, too.

The Fall and Winter Fly-Fishing Shows

The Arts of the Angler Show will be held on November 12 and 13 at the Sheraton Hotel in Danbury, Connecticut, an event for all fly tyers, rod builders, and fly-fishing collectors and an auction of fishing equipment, accessories, and collectibles in conjunction with the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum.

Saturday, November 12 show hours: 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Buffet dinner: 5:30 P.M. Auction: 7 :00 P.M.

Sunday, November 13, show hours: 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If you are interested in tying at this show, contact Ed McQuat, 31 Pine Mt. Road, Redding CT 06896 at edmcquat@optonline.net or (203) 544-8014. **See the ad in this edition of the *Gazette* for more information about The Arts of the Angler Show.**

The Fly Tyers Symposium in Somerset, New Jersey, will be held on November 19 and 20, 2005. Paul Murphy notes that tying slots for November are filling fast, and if a member wishes to tie, he or she must get on board by October 31. We will close off requests on November 1, because we need time to set up the tying times for each tyer. If anyone gets closed out, we will give them preference in January at Somerset. If you are interested in tying, please contact Paul Murphy at (908) 879-7929 or e-mail him at pmurphy100@patmedia.net. **See the ad in this edition of the *Gazette* for more information about The Fly Tyers Symposium.**

The World of Fly Fishing Show, presented by Flyfishing University, will be held on January 6, 7, and 8, 2006 at the O'Neill Center on the Western Connecticut State University campus, Danbury, Connecticut.

Show Hours: Friday, January 6, 11:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 7: 9:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, January 8, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If you are interested in tying at this show, contact Ed McQuat, 31 Pine Mt. Road, Redding, Connecticut 06896 or at edmcquat@optonline.net or at (203) 544-8014.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Picnic was held on Saturday, August 20, at the Elsie and Harry Darbee and Matthew Vinciguerra Memorial Pavilion of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum in Livingston Manor. The hamburgers and hot dogs were enhanced by a tasty spread contributed by members, with dishes ranging from locally grown tomatoes to chocolate cake and everything in between. Those who attended

renewed old friendships and made new ones. Watch for and attend next year's picnic. It's fun to talk tying and fishing with people who really know their stuff.

In recognition of his years of developing and editing the *Gazette*, at the picnic, the guild presented Allan Podell with a copy of *Land of Little Rivers: A Story in Photos of Catskill Fly Fishing*, by Austin McK. Francis, with photographs by Enrico Ferorelli. In a short, but eloquent speech, Allan said that, in the knowledge that he had gained and the friends that he had made, he had received much more than ever he had given.

In addition to the fly swap, there was a casting contest, run by Federation of Fly Fishers certified instructor Gary Sweet. Improbably, the current editor of the *Gazette*, Bud Bynack, won the challenge involving casting for distance through a vertical hoop thirty feet away. Bill Lavris, who can actually cast, won the accuracy challenge, casting to a horizontal hoop as a target.

Our Far-Flung Members *Catskill Flugor*

Jan Edman, a guild member from Solleftea, Sweden, recently corresponded with us. We asked him to tell us a little about himself. We'd also like to hear from other far-flung members—in England, Canada, California, Ohio, or even really exotic places such as Massachusetts.

I've tied flies (*flugor*, in Swedish) since I was fifteen years old (I will be forty in November), but it's during the last ten years that I've been tying more and more. The last three years, I've been a semiprofessional tyer. (My main work is with the ambulance service in Solleftea.) I've sold about three thousand flies so far this year, mostly dry flies. This year I became the second Swede to be a member of the Whiting Hackle Farms Pro Team.

My biggest customers are Lars Olsson and his wife Jennifer. They live in Bozeman, Montana, during the winter and in Sweden in the summer. They are fly-fishing writers, and they have a river in Sweden. Look at their Web site, www.scandiwest.com.

Lars gave me three Catskill dry flies, tied by Mary Dette Clark, some years ago. When I looked at the flies for the first time, I just thought they were the most perfect flies I'd ever seen. After that, I bought some books about the Catskill rivers and their fly tyers. I like flies tied with natural material, feather wings, fur-dubbed bodies, quill bodies, and the proportions that the old master tyers from the Catskills used.

Last week I was fishing the Gim River (a ScandiWest river) and had great fall dry-fly fishing for big grayling. I fished with Grayling Grizzly Dun and a Renegade, both worked very well. My biggest grayling was 21 inches. I gave some Renegade flies to another fisherman, and he caught a 24-inch grayling on a size 18 Renegade. He was pleased.

So I thought I'd give something back to members of the guild. The Grayling Grizzly Dun is a midge pattern that has worked very well in Montana the last two seasons, as well as in Sweden. It catches more than grayling.

Grayling Grizzly Dun

Hook: Size 16 to 22

Tag: Copper (I use Flashabou)

Body: Mole

Rib: Very thin copper wire

Hackle: Grizzly dyed dun, tied palmer

Editorial

“You can't go home again,” Thomas Wolfe said, and I didn't. After twenty-five years in California, though, I returned to the East Coast. I was born and raised in Cooperstown, NY, but I returned to a base downstate this time, in Westchester County. Having done so, it's hard not to reflect on the differences between the East and the West, differences that I encountered in transit to new destinations in both directions.

On first arriving in the Northern California, history seemed to melt away—to disappear into nature. There was so much of the natural world to explore, so much that was on a grand scale. In the Adirondacks, peaks over 4,000 feet are so few that hikers keep lists of the ones they've climbed. It's a big deal, there.

By contrast, once, in California, we climbed Sonora Peak. At the summit, at 11,462 feet, we encountered two guys with a ham radio and antenna, a car battery, and the remains of a cold pizza, competing in some kind of transmission derby. I guess it wasn't so much the Range of Light as the Range of Lite Beer, at least as they saw it. Still, it was a big deal for us.

It wasn't really history itself that seemed absent from California, though, but what is called “historicity,” the sense of life being *imbued* with history, the sense that living in the here and now is inextricably and for better or for worse connected to the lives and practices of those who went before, even if that was a long time ago.

That's what I returned to in the East, especially when it comes to angling—a cultural and even moral sense of being connected to a living past. I used to live two hours' drive from a rivulet called Putah Creek, pretty much the closest possible destination for San Francisco Bay Area anglers who are desperate to spend some time on a trout stream, even if it has to be on that condom-strewn and mud-snail-infested tailwater. I now live two hours' drive from the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc. Enough said.

When I joined the guild, at my first meeting, I was overwhelmed by the depth of experience and the breadth of knowledge about fly-fishing history that the members brought to the table. At gatherings of fly tyers in California, I was more accustomed to seeing someone like my friend, the talented fly-tying innovator Andy Burk, tie a new creation based on, say, a fluorescent-pink synthetic material that didn't exist six months

ago, or perhaps an exquisitely imitative, yet sturdy *Callibaetis* nymph of his own recent devising, based on his own entomological investigations.

I don't think that any Eastern tyer would say that he or she is bound by the past, either, but it's hard to deny that intellectual and emotional investment in the past is greater here than it is among their counterparts in the West. At its worst, this can lead to a sterile antiquarianism—which I hasten to add that I haven't witnessed. At its best, however, as guild member Gary Sweet points out, the Eastern sense of historicity has an ethical component: "I'm not an elitist," Gary says, "but when comments were published some time ago about the effectiveness or importance of our 'traditional' patterns and styles of patterns" in one of the national magazines, "I couldn't help but think that the people who have this kind of respect for our own legacies and heritage have more respect for our resources." It's hard to argue with that, especially in the midst of the East Coast megalopolis. Again, enough said. Share that respect. Contribute to the *Gazette* and participate in the guild's activities.

Arts of the Angler

An event for all fly tyers, rod builders, and fly fishing collectors and an auction of fishing equipment, accessories, and collectibles in conjunction with the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum.

November 12 and 13, 2005 at The Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center,
Danbury, CT

Fly Tying — Over fifty fly tyers will be present 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 seven 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 one.

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 7:00 P.M., 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 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.

Show Hours

Saturday Nov. 12 show hours 9:30 A.M.–5:00 Buffet dinner 5:30 P.M., Auction 7:00

Sunday Nov. 13, show hours 9:30 A.M.–4:00 Daily admission \$10.00

For more information contact Flyfishing University

Web site: www.flyfishingu.net

Phone: (203) 746-4121

Toll-free fax: 1-877-746-9929

E-mail: info@flyfishingu.net

The Fly Tyers Symposium

The World's Largest

Fly-Tying Show

November 19 and 20 , 2005

Doubletree Hotel

Somerset, NJ

SATURDAY - 9:30 A.M.–6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY - 9:30 A.M.– 4:30 P.M.

ADMISSION

Adults—\$12 per day

Weekend Pass—\$20

Children Under 16—FREE

Your show ticket provides a lot of choices. All included are:

• Slide Shows • Exhibits • and Featured Tyers

FREE PARKING at the Doubletree Hotel

Web site: www.flyfishingshow.com/symposium.html



The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild *Gazette* is issued five or six times a year to members. Membership is only \$10.00 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, then mail it and a check to: **Bob Osburn, 3 Good Time Court, Goshen, NY 10924** and indicate if it is a new membership or a renewal.

*******Remember, memberships renew in February. *******

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Telephone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Would you be willing to accept the *Gazette* via e-mail?

Yes (please provide) _____

No _____



This newsletter depends on all guild members for its content. Items

from nonmembers are welcome at the editor's discretion. Without the articles, information, for-sale or want ads, cartoons, newsworthy information, and whatever else is interesting and fun that members submit, this newsletter simply becomes a meeting announcement. Send submissions to Bud Bynack, BBynack@cs.com or 69 Bronxville Road, Apt. 4G, Bronxville, NY, 10708, (914) 961-3521.