

# The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild



# GAZETTE

October 2007

**The October meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild** will be held on Saturday, October 20, at 2:00 P.M. at the Rockland House on Route 206, Roscoe, NY. Bob Osburn will demonstrate tying a dry fly and an emerger using snowshoe rabbit. If you don't have any snowshoe rabbit, Bob has generously volunteered to bring enough for all tyers.

Hook: Dry fly, size 12 to 16

Thread: To match body

Body: Dubbing—your choice to match your home stream's flies

Wing: Snowshoe rabbit

Tailing: For the dry fly: Z-Lon

For the emerger: Antron. Bob will explain why you need different tailing for each.

Bob also has recommended bringing your sense of humor. This should be a great session. Bring your vise and materials and tie along with Bob. And bring two flies to swap in two containers—one for your swap mate and the other for the guild's collection. Tag each fly with your name, the name of the pattern, and the date. See the article titled "After the Floods: The Guild Fly Collection and the Meeting Format" for the need to return to these traditional elements of guild meetings.

## A Few Words of Thanks

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild wishes to extend its thanks, however belatedly, to Jim Krul and the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum for hosting an event for tyers who participated in the 2007 Fly Tyers Rendezvous in April. At the Academy Awards, "after parties" have become much-anticipated events, but it's rare that fly tyers get treated like major stars of the silver screen. We appreciate it. Thanks, Jim!

—*Dave Brandt*

The Roscoe Free Library wants to thank everybody who donated books or money to help us recover from the flood of June 2006. We couldn't have done it without you. Stop by and see what your efforts have helped achieve. The library is located at Highland Avenue and Maple Street in Roscoe—just down Highland from the Antrim. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 P.M., Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The library is closed Sundays. We now

are an Internet wi-fi hot spot, so you can now mix business with pleasure—fish the Roscoe area streams, stop by and connect with your office or family, and still be on the river for the evening hatch.

—*Judie DV Smith*

## **After the Floods: The Guild Fly Collection and the Meeting Format**

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild originated as a way for tyers interested in perpetuating and disseminating the Catskill style of fly tying to exchange information, tie some flies together, and swap flies. Demonstrations at meetings still fulfill the first of these purposes, but the other two have largely lapsed. Yet the flies tied at meetings and collected as supplements to the fly swaps have played and continue to play an important role in the guild's annual activities. In addition to accumulating an archive of flies tied by guild members, we supply flies to a number of organizations and events throughout the year. This year, we've supplied flies to be raffled at the Catskill Fly-Fishing Center and Museum's Hall of Fame dinner. We also donate flies as door prizes to the International Fly Tyers Symposium, the Fly Fishing Show in Somerset, and the Arts of the Angler Show in Danbury, in addition to dedicating one meeting a year to tying flies for Casting for Recovery.

The floods of recent years brought many changes. Among them was water damage to the guild's fly collection, with rust affecting the hooks of virtually all the flies. However, the floods also may turn out to have swept away our lassitude. We need to return to the original meeting format, with members bringing their vises, tying along with the demonstration, and contributing the flies they tie to the guild. Likewise, we need to return to swapping flies with other members and contributing examples to the guild's collection. Both practices are fun and informative.

The floods placed many people in need. Our losses pale before the loss of life and property, but they go to the heart of the organization's activities. In response, members need to step up and help out. Bring your vise to meetings, tie some flies, and share some of your own creations with other members and the guild.

## **The Fall and Winter Show Schedule**

**The International Fly Tying Symposium** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 17 and 18, 2007, at the Doubletree Hotel, Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ. Hours are Saturday, 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. and Sunday, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. For more information, visit [www.internationalflytyingsymposium.com](http://www.internationalflytyingsymposium.com) or see the ad elsewhere in this issue. As of the September guild meeting, Joe Ceballos, who is lining up tyers for our table at the show this year, still had a few spots open, and, inevitably, some people's plans change. If you want to tie at the symposium, contact Joe at [SAJEFU@aol.com](mailto:SAJEFU@aol.com).

**The Arts of the Angler Show** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11, 2007, at the Ethan Allen Inn, Exit 4 off Interstate 84, in Danbury, CT. Hours are Saturday, 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., with a special dinner available after show and a live auction of contemporary and collectibles at 7:00 P.M., and Sunday, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Admission is \$10.00. This year, the show is presented by Jim Krul and the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. For more information, visit [www.cffcm.net](http://www.cffcm.net), call (845) 439-4810, or see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you want to tie at the Arts of the Angler show, contact Ed McQuat at (203) 544-8014 or [edmcquat@optonline.net](mailto:edmcquat@optonline.net).

**The Fly Fishing Show** will be held this year from Friday through Sunday, January 25, 26, and 27, 2008, at Garden State Exhibit Center, Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ. Hours are Friday, 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; Saturday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.; and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. Adult admission is

\$15.00 for one day, \$25.00 for a two-day pass, and \$35.00 for a three-day pass. Children under twelve are \$2.00. Visit [www.flyfishingshoweast.com/NJ/welcome.htm](http://www.flyfishingshoweast.com/NJ/welcome.htm) for more information, call (800) 420-7582, or see the ad that will appear in the December 2007 issue of the *Gazette*. If you want to tie at the show, contact Joe Ceballos at [SAJEFU@aol.com](mailto:SAJEFU@aol.com) or at the monthly meetings.

## Picnic Report



*Photo by Mike Canazon*

The annual Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Picnic was held on Saturday, August 18, at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. Attendance was sparser than at some picnics in the past, but as a result, everyone got a chance to meet and mingle with everyone else. The burgers and hot dogs seemed to taste especially good this year, and the side dishes and desserts that everyone brought elicited plenty of smiles. Instead of competing in a casting contest, everyone broke out their favorite fly rods, and we all got to play with each other's toys.

Special thanks go to Gary Sweet, who took charge of the setup and cleanup. Also, the guild extends to him our condolences and support on the death of his wife, Louise, in September.

It's hard to believe it's fall again. This is a great time of the year, with October baseball, the trees all bursting with color, smells of hot apple cider with a hint of a cinnamon stick, and, of course, my favorite activity, fall fly fishing. The fly I will be talking about this month was first introduced to me by my mentor and good friend Don Bastian.

***The Wet-Fly Corner***  
With Andy Brasko, a Genuine Wet-Fly Fisherman



When I was in one of Don's wet-fly-tying classes, we tied the fly called the Montreal. I never really thought this fly was much to look at until I tied it and saw it come to life before my eyes. My first feeling was that this is one classy fly. I then asked if this fly truly catches fish. So off I went to find

out at what time of year and under what stream and weather conditions this fly would. After numerous trials and errors, I discovered that in the Ken Lockwood Gorge in New Jersey, this fly would work from late September through the end of October under all weather conditions. It caught browns as well brookies. On the Beaverkill, I found this fly to work on chilly, dark, overcast days with a light rain. The difference is that on the Beaverkill, I have caught only brown trout. On the Beaverkill, this fly never seems to work on a sunny fall day. But I'm still researching this fly in fall weather conditions in both New York and New Jersey.

In the fall, water levels tend to be either normal to high or low. If the water level is normal to high, I use an intermediate sinking fly line with a 3X leader 7 to 9 feet long and a size 6 fly. The sinking line pulls the fly under, preventing drag, which would result in refusals from the trout. If the water level is low, I use a double-taper floating fly line with a 7-foot 4X leader with a size 10 fly. The size 10 presents minimal drag and just nicely drops under the surface. I have caught numerous fish with a size 6 fly, and in the past three years, I've never been forced to go smaller due to the trout refusing the fly.

## **The Montreal**

Hook: Size 6 Mustad 3906

Thread: White Danville 6/0 for the underbody, Black Danville size 6/0 for the head

Tag: Size 16/18 gold Mylar tinsel

Tail: Red goose or duck (3 to 4 quill segments for size 6, 2 quill segments for size 10)

Body: Two strands of wine/claret Danville floss wrapped from back to front

Rib: Size 16/18 gold Mylar tinsel

Beard/False Hackle: Claret schlappen

Wing: Paired dark brown mottled oak turkey wings

Head cement: One good soaking coat of Griff's Thin, 2 coats of Griff's Thick. If the fly is for show or to be pictured, one coat of black ProLaq.

The picture of the fly I presented for this article is from plate six of Ray Bergman's *Trout*. The pattern can be found at the back of the book on page 439. For the wing in the fly I tied for this article, I used peacock wing quills in place of the dark brown mottled oak turkey. I was having a discussion about two years back with Ralph Graves, and Ralph mentioned that he liked peacock instead of turkey on the Montreal. I have to agree with Ralph. The peacock truly enhances the look of an already classy fly.



*Photo by Annie Brasko*



# Answers to the Fly-Fishing Crossword Puzzle Contest

By Allan Podell

1		2		3					4		5	
S	D	I	A	S	H	E	S		E	I	P	
D		F		F					O		F	
F		6			7	8		9				
		A	D	A	M	S		M	O	I	E	
C		D			10		11					
					I	N	S	E	C	T		
12									13		14	
I	C	F			D				S	E	T	
E		15	16		D	C	E	P		N	P	
S							17					
			C		E		F	V	E		I	
						18						
			D			D			F		C	
		19							20		21	
		H	E	N	D	P	I	C	K	S	O	N
22												
E	D	A	N		A				A		V	
D		D			C					W		M
A		23						24				
		V	I	S	E			D	A	V		D
N		F							A		F	H
K		25										
		V	O	U	N	C	S	T	E	P	S	

## Across

- 1) What trout make.
- 4) What anglers are known to do.
- 6) Excellent general impressionistic dry fly.
- 9) Excellent dubbing for small flies.
- 10) A fly.
- 12) Needed by those who C&K.
- 13) Not wanted on rod or line.
- 15) "Got it!"
- 17) Tippet goes here.
- 19) Early season fly.
- 22) \_\_\_ Better.
- 23) Useful tool.
- 24) Author.
- 25) The best to teach.

## Down

- 1) Type of.
- 2) Connects line to tippet.
- 3) Big water.
- 4) Fly-fishing painter.
- 5) Terrestrial.
- 7) Usually small fly.
- 8) Saturday night (abbrev.).
- 9) A fly-fishing method in Fox's book.
- 11) Fertilize, pollinate, etc.
- 14) One of the no-see-ums.
- 16) Renowned British fly-fishing author.
- 18) Not desirable.
- 19) Teacher and author.
- 20) English riverkeeper.
- 21) Insect stage.
- 22) First name of 20 down.
- 24) A series of salmon flies.

No one submitted a complete and correct puzzle to Allan. So he gets to fish his own flies.

# The Right Fly

By Al Himmel

When trout rise visibly to floating insects, it can be an easy task to collect a sample, identify the insect, and select an appropriate dry-fly imitation. Unfortunately, such ideal situations are more often the exception than the rule. A more likely scenario occurs when there is no hatch, there are no rises, and there are no visible insects to provide clues as to the right fly for the situation. One of the most useful flies for such conditions is the Calf-Tail Royal Wulff, which seemingly does not imitate any of the common hatches, but almost always is capable of dredging up a few stubborn trout, no matter how impossible the situation seems. It is important that the fly be tied with a sparse tail consisting of squiggly fibers, which vibrate in the water as it drifts. Fishless days can be converted into memorable events, thanks to the mysterious attractive powers of the Calf-Tail Royal Wulff.

Of course, one fly cannot solve all of nature's seemingly impenetrable mysteries, so it is important to have a second line of offense when confronted with a no-hatch situation. Since black-bodied insects dominate the watery world, a black Goddard Caddis tied in sizes 18 through 22 is never a wrong choice. Obviously, the size of this fly presents visibility problems. One solution is to add a small foam bead to the top of the body of the fly. To preserve the foam bead, it can be encased in plastic and the hackle tied parachute style. As the continued success of the Royal Wulff shows, when the going gets tough, peacock herl bodies are always a good idea, small flies can create activity when all else fails, and black can never be wrong.

When you sit down to tie a fly, you take a seat at a very large, very old table. As you go through the magazines, books, and videos—taking and ignoring advice, learning tricks and shortcuts, discerning and taking sides in old debates, then picking and choosing a pattern, a style, eventually even an aesthetic stance—you participate in a long, complicated, and apparently endless conversation over those and many other matters. You join not merely a club, but a guild.

—Paul Schullery, *Cowboy Trout*

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild *Gazette* is issued six times a year to members. Membership is only \$10.00 per year. For membership renewals, send a check, your current address and phone number, and, if you wish to receive the *Gazette* by e-mail, your current e-mail address, to:

**Bob Osburn, 3 Good Time Court, Goshen, NY 10924.**

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



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.



World's Largest Show For Fly Tying  
**The 17th Annual International Fly Tying  
Symposium**

**November 17th and 18th, 2007  
Doubletree Hotel  
Atrium Drive  
Somerset, NJ**

SATURDAY: 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
SUNDAY: 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Slide Shows, Exhibits, and Featured Tyers

**FREE PARKING** at the Doubletree Hotel





Sponsored by *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine

## The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum



Presents



## The Arts of the Angler Show

**More than a symposium . . . an intimate show with all the features of a full fly-fishing show**

Forty-plus fly tyers providing nonstop fly-tying demonstrations and seminars, plus many dealers offering collectible tackle, books, and paraphernalia, A fine selection of fly-tying materials, fly tackle, accessories, and more from a select group of vendors and suppliers.

**Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11, 2007**

**The Ethan Allen Inn, Exit 4, off I-84 in Danbury, CT**

(Make a right after the exit. The inn is on the right in approximately 0.5 miles)

Saturday, November 10, 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(Special dinner available after the Saturday show, plus a live auction of contemporary and collectibles at 7:00 P.M.)

Sunday, November 11, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Admission: \$10 per day

**See some of America's finest fly tyers**, including David Brandt, Bob Mead, Jay "Fishy" Fullum, Ralph Graves, Bob Lindquist, Paul Rossman, Roger Plourde, Ted Patlen, Joe Soma, Harold Williams, John Likakis, Bill Hrinko, Tony Smith, Paul Ptalis, Bill Newcomb, Mickey Goshen, Richard Bogardus, and Patrick Jordan.

**Attend programs and seminars** with Keith Fulsher, "Tying and Fishing Atlantic Salmon Flies"; Kathy Scott, "Furled Leader Making"; Jerry Stercho, "Tying Tips and Techniques You Need to Know";

David Van Burgel, “Bamboo Rod Making”; Floyd Franke, “How to Play Big Fish”; Bamboo Mike Longuil, “How to Select a Used Bamboo Fly Rod” and “Refreshing an Old Bamboo Rod”; Fran Verdoliva, “Salmon River Steelhead and Salmon”; and more.

**Many fine vendors will be on hand** to provide you with today’s fly-fishing equipment, fly-tying materials, fly-fishing accessories, destinations, services, and gifts. Also yesterday’s fine collectibles: tackle, equipment, books, accessories, and other jewels.

**Visit the Club Corner** to find out what fly-fishing clubs and organizations are in your area.

**For more information, visit [www.cffcm.net](http://www.cffcm.net) or call (845) 439-4810.**

This event is supported by *American Angler* and *Fly Tyer* magazines, *Fly Fishing New England* magazine, and *The Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*. All proceeds to benefit the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum.