

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild



GAZETTE

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October 2008

The October meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at 2:00 P.M. at the Rockland House on Route 206, Roscoe, NY. John Collins will tie two of his special flies, the *Baetis* Puff Emerger and the Electric Caddis. You have probably admired John's work at the Fly Fishing Show East at Somerset and the International Fly Tying Symposium, and this is a chance to gather some pointers on tying these two patterns, so bring your vise and tools. These patterns can also be seen being demonstrated by John in videos on Rise Form Studio TV at http://www.riseformstudio.tv/fly_tying_video.html. The following is a list of materials for these flies.

***Baetis* Puff Emerger**

Hook: Dai-Riki 285, size 18

Thread: Olive

Abdomen: Small olive Ultra Wire

Thorax: Olive dubbing

Wing; Dun CDC puff

Tail: Mallard or wood duck

John recommends this pattern for early spring



Electric Caddis

Hook: Scud, size 14

Thread: Olive

Underbody: Olive thread

Abdomen: Small olive Ultra Wire placed in clear Wapsi stretch tubing

Legs: Black ostrich herl, singed

Tail: Olive Antron

John fishes this pattern all winter



September Meeting Report

Ralph Graves showed several of his favorite tying techniques. This was filmed by Peter Heller for our archives.

Our next DVD set based on those archives will be coming out at the end of the year featuring several tyers and their flies on two DVDs.

The ticket for the *Steep Bank Pool* print will be pulled at the next meeting, on October 18.

A Dyna-King vise has been donated and will be raffled off. The ticket to be drawn on January 24, 2009. Chances are \$5.00 a ticket.

The Rendezvous fly plate is being framed by Ted Patlen and tickets will be sold starting at the Danbury Arts of the Angler show. The winning ticket will be pulled at the Rendezvous in April 2009. This raffle will benefit our Educational Fund.

We need volunteers to serve on the Scholarship Committee. They need to formulate some guidelines for applying for the scholarship so we can let guidance counselors and students know what is available.

Does anyone have a backdrop for a show that they are no longer using or know where one might be found? A business or a school might perhaps have one. We need something a little more professional than what we've been using for the last fifteen years.

—*Judie DV Smith*

Picnic Report

The Annual Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Picnic held on Saturday, August 16, was a signal success. This year, instead of the usual hamburgers and hotdogs, we asked participants to bring main dishes, as well as side dishes and deserts, and the result was an outstanding meal—far superior to the usual fare. Judie's pasta salad and Bob and Nancy Osburn's sausage and peppers and dessert cake were superb. We're definitely doing it this way again next year.



Dave Brandt works the refs



Some of the gang

As advertised, there was a casting contest, an event made more challenging by the stiff breeze that came and went. The winner of the accuracy contest, targeting hoops on the grass, was Galen Wilkins, followed by Dave Brandt and Dick Smith in second and third place. The winner of the accuracy/distance contest, casting through a vertical hoop for distance beyond the hoop, was Dave Brandt, followed by Judie Smith and Galen Wilkins. Once again, Gary Sweet set up and officiated at the contest, assisted by Bob Osburn. The guild thanks both, along with all who brought food and drink and shared this good time.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Calendar of Events

There will be no November monthly meeting because of the Somerset and Danbury shows. See the ads in this issue of the *Gazette*.

The Arts of the Angler Show, sponsored by the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum: Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, 2008, at the Danbury Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton), 18 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury, CT, located off Exit 2, Interstate 84.

The International Fly Tying Symposium: Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, NJ.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, December 20, 2008, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M. Demonstration by Dave Brandt.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, January 17, 2009, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M. At this meeting, we tie flies for Casting for Recovery.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, February 21, 2009, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M. This meeting will feature the annual materials swap.

Looking Back Upstream



Fly-Tying Notes from Harry Darbee: Tying the Four-Winged Dry Fly

Quoted from letter to F. B. Lord, August 23, 1947.

Here is the method I use tying the four-winged flies:

First tie in wings of mallard flank, dividing them and cocking them rather far apart. Grasp them close to the bases and turn them completely under the hook. If the turn is made in the same direction as the tying silk is wound in dressing the fly, they will not loosen.

Second, tie another pair of wings directly over those just turned under, cocking them so as to form a cross with the wings underneath, that is: have them at about equal distance apart in all directions. This will allow the fly to land “cocked” even though on its side or upside down as you desired.

Third, wind back to bend, fasten tail and form body, tying in hackles at shoulder and tying off as in conventional patterns, being careful to not disturb the set of the wings when winding the hackles. Finish off and varnish and the fly is ready for business.

Materials used in this fly are as follows:

Wings—Mallard Flank

Tail and hackles—medium ginger

Body—Gray fur dubbing from fox belly.

[Signed]

Harry Darbee

—Text and transcription courtesy of Judie DV Smith

Fall is upon us once again. I truly love the fall and its fishing. It’s the time of year when the scenery is bursting with colors that are a Thanksgiving feast for the eyes. This time of year, on

bright, sunshiny days, I reach for my favorite fly—a fly that has become my trademark: the Captain.

Don Bastian introduced me to this fly in the weekend wet-fly class I attended at the Fishing Creek Angler in Benton, Pennsylvania. Some of the wet flies found in Ray Bergman’s *Trout* that seem a little drab in the color plates are really gems when they are tied. When I went home and looked at all the flies I tied that weekend, I fell in love with the looks of the Captain. It’s one of those flies with just a plain body and wing that gets transformed into eye candy with a little color and is dignified with a

The Wet-Fly Corner

With Andy Brasko, a Genuine Wet-Fly Fisherman



touch of peacock herl for the tag. I decided to tie up a dozen of these flies and place them in my fly box.

With most of the flies listed in *Trout*, there is little to no information about when or how to fish these flies, so next I was off to the stream for research. In the spring, this fly caught only a fish or two, and the summer was not much better. It was not until mid-September that I decided to give this fly another try. I was fishing the Beaverkill and tied on a size 6 Captain. About three or four casts later, I felt a slight bump. Thinking the fly had gotten snagged, I started to pull on the fly line again and felt a very slight tug. I decided to retrieve the line slowly and see what is going on the other end. As the fly came into view, all I could do was to stand there in amazement and laugh. I had just landed a three-inch rainbow trout. The size 6 hook was wedged in its mouth, with the tip of the hook barely penetrating the skin. This little guy had tried to inhale the fly.

After I had a good laugh, I realized that if a little trout would go after this fly, the bigger ones should do the same. And sure enough, I wound up catching seven more trout of various sizes, from eight to about thirteen inches. I noted a few things about how the Captain fished that day. The sky was clear, the sun was bright, and the water was clear. Also, all the strikes were hard.

For the next two years, when I fished that fly, I noted that it took fish only sporadically in the spring, but very well in the fall. I also noted that on dark, cloudy days, the fly never caught fish.

I have caught fish on the Willowemoc and Beaverkill and in New Jersey on my home waters of the Ken Lockwood Gorge, the Pequest River, and Big Flat Brook. This is one of the very few flies on which I have caught browns, rainbows, and brook trout. The Captain can always be found in my fly box. Give this classic fly a try, enjoy this upcoming fall fishing season, and don't forget to stop and enjoy all the colors and beauty that make this season special.



Photo: Annie Brasko

The Captain

Hook: Mustad 3906 size 6 or size 8 (For show flies, I prefer to use Mustad 3399, size 6)

Thread: White Danville 6/0 for the underbody and black Danville 6/0 for the head

Tail: Two segments of duck quill dyed red married over two segments of duck quill dyed yellow

Tag: One peacock herl taken from the peacock eye

Body: Two strands of white Danville floss tied in at the back and wrapped forward together at the same time

Beard/false hackle: Brown schlappen (I prefer to use fiery brown)

Wing: Paired duck quills. In Bergman's *Trout*, the wing is listed as "slate." This means natural duck quill.

Book Review

Clouser's Flies: Tying and Fishing the Fly Patterns of Bob Clouser.
By Bob Clouser. Published by Stackpole Books, 2006; \$39.95 hardbound.

Well folks, this just about settles it. Bob Clouser writes: "Back in the late 1970s, my friends and I pinched split shot on deer-tail streamers to emulate the motion of a jig because, hands down, fishing with a jig is one of the most effective ways to catch fish." With the advent of barbell-shaped eyes in the 1980s, the Clouser Deep Minnow as we know it was born.

So yes, it is a jig. Not, as the saying goes, that there's anything wrong with that. That's not entirely news, nor is the fact that, as Clouser says, his invention is not a fly pattern at all, but a style of tying, as the protean nature of many of the flies featured in this collection of Clouser's work at the vise and on the stream attests. Seven of the seventeen flies described in *Clouser's Flies* are variations on the original Deep Minnow, and several of the others are likewise variations on basic approaches to how to construct a fly.

All of which is to say that Clouser operates on the level of basic principles, not superficial tweaks and twists. Once he has demonstrated that an implementation of those principles catches fish, we are free to tweak and twist to our heart's content. Indeed, he encourages us to do so. The injunction to observe what's going on where you fish and to modify his patterns according to what's necessary to match local forage foods is a recurrent theme of this book.

What Clouser seems adept at discovering, in other words, are universal approaches that can be adapted to a variety of different particulars. As a result, even though his laboratory is the smallmouth fishery of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, his flies have caught fish from bluegills and trout to pelagic species around the world—Lefty Kreh claims to have landed eighty-six species of fish on the Clouser Deep Minnow himself.

The basic principle behind the success of the Clouser Deep Minnow is simple. As Clouser puts it, "One of the problems with conventional streamer patterns is that they stop moving during the retrieve when the angler is not stripping them. What baitfish would stop when being chased by a predator?" The jigging motion supplied by the weighted eyes keeps the Clouser Deep Minnow in motion, on the drop, as well as on the strip.

And as Clouser emphasizes, takes usually happen on the drop. This has led him to develop a stripping technique that many who fish Clousers could profitably employ. With the Susquehanna Strip, "strikes increase tenfold over a steady stripping retrieve."

When the fly hits the water, drop the rod tip down to 6 inches from the water and make a long strip of 3 to 4 feet. As you start the strip, bring your arm back along your side. When your hand reaches your leg, quickly turn your thumb rearward to accelerate the strip. Ending the strip with a speed-up-and-stop portrays the erratic escaping movements of a scared baitfish. The quick acceleration frees the fly from the leader. The fly stops and turns down because of the weight of the metallic eyes. The strike comes on that drop.

Because the Clouser Deep Minnow, and indeed most of Clouser's flies presented here, are essentially simple in conception and execution, it's information such as this and insights based on long experience that make this book really worthwhile. The value, in other words, is in the details, often revealed in excellent step-by-step photos. ("D'oh! He clips the butts of the bucktail *before* tying it in on

the Deep Minnow.”) Some locally developed fly patterns and fishing styles stay local. Bob Clouser has the knack of seeing the universal in the particular.

—Bud Bynack



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

November 22 and 23, 2008

Doubletree Hotel

Atrium Drive

Somerset, NJ

This Year's Theme: The British Invasion



SATURDAY: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY: 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

ADMISSION

Saturday: Adults — \$15.00

Sunday: Adults — \$12.00

Weekend Pass — \$20.00

Children under 16 — Free

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

Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, 2008

The Danbury Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton)

**18 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury, CT, located off Exit 2, Interstate 84, in
Danbury, CT**

Saturday, November 15, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

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

Sunday, November 16, 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Free Seminars: Selecting a Bamboo Fly Rod, Refinishing Bamboo Rods, Fishing the Catskill Streams, Lake Ontario Tributaries Salmon and Steelhead, For Beginners in the Salt, Creative Fly Tying, and others. Special book release and signing by Keith Fulsher, Sunday, Noon–2:00 P.M.

Fly-Tying Classes: Catskill Dry Flies with Dave Brandt, Streamers and Baitfish with Mike Martinek, Make a Mead Lady Bug with Bob Mead, Deer-Hair Management and Bug Making, and others. Call 845-439-4810 for registration information. Fees apply.

Nonstop Tying Demonstrations by the best of the best in the U.S.A., including: Dave Brandt, Jay “Fishy” Fullum, Mike Martinek, Bob Mead, Ralph Graves, Bruce Marino, Paul Rossman, Ed Burgholzer, Bill Hrinko, Roger Plourde, Ted Patlen, Harold Williams, Jack Pangburn, Peggy Brenner, Leslie Wrixon, Bill Newcomb, the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, Thomas Farmer, Bruce Corwin, Joe Soma, John Klemm, Jr., George Cherundolo, Andrea van Benschoten, Greg Belcamino, and more.

Vendors providing the finest in hackle to tackle include: Baker’s Bamboo Flyrods, MC Flyfishing, Housatonic River Outfitters, Badger Creek Fly Tying, Richard Bradley Reels, Housatonic Valley Rods, Bamboo Mike Longuil, Belvoirdale, Whitewater Flies/The Variant, Jerry Girard, Chesapeake Rod &

Reel, and others.

Antique Fishing Tackle Roadshow: A panel of museum appraisers will be on hand each day to help you find out just what you have in lures, hooks, magazines, rods, reels, or other-fishing related items. Live auction, Saturday, 7:00 P.M.

NEW: Fly Tyers' Garage: Need a tune-up? Crowded heads, bent wings, floppy tails, poor thread performance, working with new tools? Our top-notch mechanics: Fishy, Pangburn, Klemm, Farmer, Williams, Marino, and Brenner will provide diagnostics to tune up your tying. Bring your tools and materials. No estimates involved—all tune-ups are free. Sunday morning, 10:30–Noon.

A Note to Members Contributing Flies to the Guild Fly Plate

For the flies to show to the best effect, we need the following:

- ❖ Dry flies no smaller than 14. Darker-colored flies are easier to see. A size 20 Light Cahill will disappear.
- ❖ Standard-sized bass bugs and streamers no more than four inches long.
- ❖ Be aware that materials such as marabou will droop and fade after a few years. Other materials such as synthetic wing flash, if too heavily dressed, can go haywire in the frame. However, Ted Patlen can control most materials with hair spray and other techniques.
- ❖ Sign your name in #2 pencil only and sign two cards in case one gets damaged. In addition to the signatures, print your name on each card so everyone can tell who tied the fly.

Monthly Fly Swap Open to Everyone

By Allan Podell

There are two reasons for you to participate in the monthly fly swap at Catskill Fly Tyers Guild meetings. First, you get to accumulate some really neat flies for fishing, to collect, or to use as models in your own tying. Second, the guild uses the flies it gets as part of the swap for awards, prizes, and fund-raising activities.

You tie two identical flies. The swap is open to all types and patterns, but tying “Catskill” flies is encouraged. You then prepare two tags, on which you write the name and size of the pattern, your own name, and the date tied or the date of the swap. Attach the tags to the flies and place the tagged fly in a 35mm film container or pill container. Containers will be available at the meeting. From each pair of flies you submit, one is kept by the guild and the other is placed in a bag. You get to select a container from the bag and keep the fly within. You may submit as many pairs of flies as you like. You will select a number of containers equal to the number of different flies you submitted. It's a fun way to accumulate new patterns and tying ideas.

☞ The Rockland House ☞

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild wants to express its appreciation and thanks to Tom and Marea Roseo, proprietors of the Rockland House, for making the facilities at that establishment available for the guild meetings and for their continued support. Please reciprocate with your patronage.

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, budbynack@verizon.net or 69 Bronxville Road, Apt. 4G, Bronxville, NY, 10708, (914) 961-3521.