

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

# GAZETTE

Dec., 2004

## Next Meeting will be Saturday, December 18. 1:00 Rockland House

**FLY TYERS RENDEZVOUS, Sat., April 16, 10am till 3pm, At the Rockland House.** Don't forget to mark your calendars! More information and sign-up sheets will be mailed soon

Jan. 7, 8, 9 – **FLY FISHING UNIVERSITY**, Danbury, CT

Jan. 15 – Saturday, **Meeting** at 1:00pm, Rockland House

Jan. 28, 29, 30 – **the FLY FISHING SHOW**, Somerset, NJ

Feb. 19 – Saturday, **Meeting** at 1:00pm, Rockland House (may be the 'material swap')

March 19 – Saturday, **Meeting** at 1:00pm, Rockland House (may be the 'material swap')

**ROD RAFFLE** - Chuck Neuner Bamboo Rod Raffle - 7'9", 2 piece, 2 tip, 4 wt. with rod tube and bag. Drawing April 16, 2005 - Limited to 275 tickets @\$5 each. Benefits educational programs and scholarships. You can mail check to Judie DV Smith, CFTG, PO Box 663, Roscoe, NY 12776 for ticket; stubs will be sent to you if you enclose 37c additional. Tickets are going fast and may not be available at the Rendezvous!

**Still need someone** to go over the vises and material and sort and label and list!!

The World Of Flyfishing Show, in Danbury, CT will be January 7 - 9, 2005.

Tickets are available to Guild members at \$7.00 each per day. They must request them by December 20, 2004 from Judie DV Smith. They can send a check to CFTG, PO Box 663, Roscoe, NY 12776 with an additional 37c for postage. Guild members who plan on signing up to tie at the table will be provided with a ticket for that day. Please let Judie [darbee1@juno.com](mailto:darbee1@juno.com) know as soon as possible.

The Guild is **looking to acquire** a laptop computer for use at shows we participate in. We can use it to take memberships and play dvd's of our tyers at work. The cost of a laptop with dvd capability and a 17" screen would be between one and two thousand dollars. We would like to use our funds for other projects. If anyone has an idea, or knows where we can get a good laptop for free, or at a good price, contact Mike Canazon at [mcarazon@hvc.rr.com](mailto:mcarazon@hvc.rr.com) or call me at 845-439-3593.

**\*\* NEW \*\* GUILD WEBSITE – Take a look and you may want to put in your 'favorites'.**

Some of it is still under construction but it's getting there. Great job!

<http://www.catskillflytyersguild.org/>

**\*\*\*FLASH\*\*\*** The first annual Clearwater Junction will be held Fri. and Sat. June 3rd and 4th at the Rockland House in Roscoe, N.Y. from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to benefit the Conservation Fund at Theodore Gordon Flyfishers. Admission will be \$5.00 and all proceeds (from admissions) go to the TGF Conservation Fund. I am asking all members who are interested in tying to let me know ASAP! "Spots" to tie will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. As the N.Y.S. TU chapter meetings will also be

being held on the premises on Sat. morning, we won't have as much room for the first half of the day. Therefore, we will have to keep ourselves to the front half of the restaurant Sat. morning. So, I expect we'll have room for up to 50 tyers on Fri. and say half that on Sat., at least for the first half of the day. You will have your choice of tying both "shifts" or just from 9:00 a.m. to noon, or from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. That's up to you, but let me know well in advance what you would like to do. If you have a preference as to where you want to tie, (front room or back) let me know, NOW! You can sign-up by calling me at 607-498-9944 or by emailing me at [markfishes2003@hotmail.com](mailto:markfishes2003@hotmail.com) or at [Mark@JazzmarkGallery.com](mailto:Mark@JazzmarkGallery.com) and I will get back to you asap. Tyers are encouraged to sell their flies, and pocket the proceeds. TGF is only benefiting from the admission proceeds. So tell all your buddies and give them the contact info. Thanks guys, Mark J. Romero

### **Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – The Hollow** by Ed Ostapczuk

Do you vaguely remember when a nickel could buy something worthwhile? Do you remember being a kid in a candy store confronted with the difficult decision of how to invest that lone nickel in your possession? Today, the last official day of trout season on most New York streams, was just like being a kid in a candy store all over again with a nickel in my pocket. Where did I want to spend the last few hours of open season, what waters beckoned to me the loudest?

I gave all my math classes unit chapter tests Friday, so I didn't expect any students to stop by after school for extra help. No need to dally. I left the premises shortly after the busses did; a light drizzle was sporadically falling. Driving up along Route \*\* a steadier drizzle began to fall and the mountains disappeared shrouded by a misty fog. At best I would have two hours of light in which to spend my nickel. As I passed over the Bridge I glanced down at the Creek. It looked really good but this creek remains open to fishing until the end of November. The particular parking area was nearly full of vehicles and the creek at this point would not offer the solitude that I sought on this "last official day" of trout season. My destination today was one of those little brooks in the mountain hollows.

As I changed into my fishing gear the rain really intensified and the woods around me sang a symphony of nature. There were as many leaves on the ground as hung in the trees above. Autumn color filled the entire hollow and an earthy damp scent permeated the air. I felt alone but never lonely and a sense of connection to God's creation. The \*\*\*\*\* Hollow was low and crystal clear. A scant few, very few in fact, BWO's hung around over the brook, otherwise the stream looked as if it went to sleep for another season. Attaching a weighted Flashback Hare's Ear and Halfback Nymph with one BB shot, I slowly dapped upstream. Searching its tiny pools and pockets I missed several hits. Fear overtook me as I could feel my season slipping away; I was clutching my lone nickel to hard. So I regrouped and surrendered myself to my surroundings and once again was absorbed by the rhythms of nature.

I fished from 3:30 until 5:00 PM when the stream went dead for another year. In between I managed to land a small bow, two browns, and finished my outing with a brook trout. Another hat trick and wonderful way to end my season. The larger fish I moved here last time seemed to have disappeared in the lower water. Nonetheless, I love the small waters of these mountains and will miss them. They feed as much life into me as they do to our Catskill rivers.

"... you will search far to find a fisherman to admit that a taste for fishing, like a taste for liquor, must be governed lest it come to possess its possessor." – Sparse Gray Hackle

Just like an impetuous kid in a candy store, with a nickel burning a hole in his pocket, I ignored the rain today and found myself on a stream for an hour or so. Hopefully I'll be fishing other open waters I know until the end of November, but now my choices will be limited as most of my favorite candy stores just closed.

So that's it. I fished 1½ hours taking four small wild trout while standing in God's creation as another chapter closed today on my 2004 season. I will miss these hollow brooks and all they have to offer.

### **The Kelly Bill Bucktail**, by Ed Ostapczuk

Several folks have asked me about the Kelly Bill bucktail and how to tie it. First let me provide a little history, at least what I know.

I stumbled across this pattern quite by accident in Ed's Fly Shop off Route 30 in Northville, NY at the foothills of the Adirondacks. Ed Bendl, who is quite a character, tied it and told me of the source. The fly's name caught my eye as I immediately thought of the late Bill Kelly, a retired NYS DEC fisheries biologist of some fame and notoriety. I don't tie it exactly like Ed Bendl does, but rely upon Paul Schmooker and Ingrid Sils' book, *Forgotten Flies*. The pattern is provided, along with a photo, on page 458. For those folks who do not have access to *Forgotten Flies*, the pattern is tied as follows:

Head: Red

Tail: Short section of orange wool; I use antron

Body: Rear half – flat gold tinsel, front half – orange wool; I use gold mylar and orange antron

Rib: Medium flat gold tinsel over the front portion of the body; again I use mylar

Throat: Long, sparse black hackle

Wing: Gray squirrel tail; I tie it fairly sparse

Cheeks: Jungle cock

Thus far, I have only tied and fished the Kelly Bill on #10 Mustad 9575 hooks. Herbert L. Howard originated this fly in 1925 at the suggestion of Mr. Bill Kelly of the Cranberry Lake region of the Adirondacks.

I first tied this pattern prior to this season hoping to catch a wild brown trout on the East Branch of the Neversink. Thus far I have not, but I have caught trout on the East Branch and West Branches of the Neversink, the Neversink Reservoir, and lower Neversink. It has worked for me on brook trout and browns. My acid test for any fly is the lower Neversink. If a pattern can catch trout there, it can catch them anywhere in these Catskills. This fly was taken some large browns there and even got old Mike Tyson to take a swipe at it.

I don't recall if it was Gary Borger, or Gary La Fontaine, who described the most important characteristics of effective flies were: size, shape, and silhouette; perhaps both did. I also feel that for a fly to be effective, the user has to believe in it before ever attaching it to his/her leader. Whenever I attach this bucktail, I believe somewhere old Bill Kelly is looking down on me and helping me fish. You can't ask for more than that when you choose a fly to fish.

### **From Gary Sweet:**

Neat little quiz on Theodore Gordon! Want some more interesting info on him? I ran across this doing some research for something else. Go to Joseph Bates Jr's book: [Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing](#), page 239 (Bumblepuppy recipe and description). I've read this book and used it as a reference for many other things, but when I ran across this data, I was surprised. He is not only the "father" of dry fly fishing in North America, but the introduction and use of streamers and bucktails too!

Another book that has been of local interest is [Black Bass](#) by John Alden Knight (1949). At one point he lived in Binghamton for a while and fished the West Branch of the Delaware, Chenango River, and the "North Branch" (as he calls it) of the Susquehanna River all the way into PA. What he had to write about the fishing in the Delaware system and other local places was interesting. His book is not limited to fly fishing, even though that is obviously what he preferred. It has quite a few interesting photos of himself and his son fly fishing the West Branch for SM Bass. BTW, I picked this book up in a used book store in Owego. It had been discarded from the Veterans Administration Library in Bath, NY. I know this book is not about Catskill trout flies, but it is a good reference for the history of use of flies for SM Bass in the

Delaware River System. Unfortunately, he doesn't write anything about the use of flies for shad fishing in the Delaware.

Just thought that you might be interested in adding Knight's book to your list of historic books on the use of flies in the Catskill's. This book was published in 1949, before the Cannonsville and Pepacton Reservoirs were in place, and when the Delaware was known more for its smallmouth fishing, than trout fishing. Perspective is interesting sometimes. I was talking with a DEC Fisheries Biologist a few years ago about the stocking of walleyes in Oquaga Lake (State Park east of Deposit) to help control the "trash" fish populations. I had asked if the walleye intro in the lake would affect the trout fishing in Oquaga Creek. He laughed and immediately asked me if I knew what tributary of the Delaware attracted the greatest breeding populations of walleyes and American Eels. I thought it would have been something like the Lackawaxen. He laughed and said "nope", the Oquaga Creek! I remember fishing it, and with it emptying into the W.B. by the No-Kill section have NEVER imagined, caught, or even seen walleyes or eels in the Qquaga Creek! He said they have shocked it a number of times and have been shocked themselves!

**ANSWERS to 'The Quiz' from Last Issue:**

- |                         |                  |   |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1) True                 | 2) A + B Only    | 3) True   |
| 4) GEM Skues            | 5) Dibbled       | 6) Banquet of mephitis (D)                      |
| 7) Muskrat (C)          | 8) Neversink (B) | 9) About 1860, Thadeus Norris<br>the Willowemoc |
| 10) Master Speckles (D) |                  |   |

Paul Murphy was the only member to submit answers to the quiz. He correctly answered 8 out of the 10 questions. For that, Paul has won 3 hand tied trout leaders. Congratulations Paul.

I WONDER WHY NO ONE ELSE PARTICIPATED? WERE THE QUESTIONS TOO DIFFICULT?  
IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A CONTEST, PLEASE SEND IT TO ME. 'E' OR SNAIL MAIL. (ap)

**International Fly Tyers Symposium - REVIEW**  
**Nov. 20 & 21, 2004**

The Guild again participated in the International Fly Tyers Symposium. The space was generously donated by promoter Chuck Furminsky. We had a talented group of tyers: Andy Brasko( 2 Days), John Kavanaugh, John Collins, Misa Ishamura, Elmer Hopper, Darn Rist, Brian McKee, Frank Audino, Dan Caruso and Al Ampe. Dave Catizone brought the new backdrop down early Sat. before the show opening and the Floyde Franke brought the raffle rod that I had left behind in Danbury. Mistakenly, I loaded an empty box that I thought contained the rod into my car. The rod was a great magnet, drew many people to the table to look it over and dream about winning it. I promised at least 12 people I was selling them the winning ticket. So, if you don't see me at the Rendezvous you'll know why!

My read is that the show drew a somewhat light crowd and with fewer numbers. We did not sign up as many members as we wanted: A total of 10 people renewed or signed up. Maybe two shows, back-to-back and competing for the same market, cuts down on the attendance at each.

We did some fine demonstrations and at least created an awareness of who we are. All tyers delivered patterns that were certainly acceptable Catskill flies including some very traditional patterns.

I want use this item to thank all who gave their time and skills to making our presence at the show a success. Beside the above mentioned. We have Judie Smith to thank for all the pre-show work that gets us the space and numerous thankless tasks that go on before show week-end.

One more thing: Frank Thompson, a tyer from MD, who many of you know from the Rendezvous, made it a point to say how much he thinks of the Gazette. He belongs to a number of organizations and gets other newsletters, throw all out after reading them but saves ours. Allan take a bow. PMurphy

## **EDITORIAL – Videos of our tyers: ‘Access Versus Availability’**

Earlier this year there was discussion about creating a Master video or dvd of all the demonstrations that have been taped. It seems almost everyone agrees a Master should be created. However, there are differences of opinions about: access to the Master, where the created Master video could be seen, membership copies, the possible sale of copies, and getting approval of those who have been video taped.

I believe this is a very important topic. As editor of this newsletter I offer my opinion. Whether you agree or disagree, I’m asking everyone who reads this editorial to respond with his or her opinion.

First, let me say that the Guild greatly appreciates all members and guests who shared their time and skill by demonstrating at our meetings and programs. They have helped make our goals of perpetuating and promoting the ‘Catskill Style’ possible.

I consider there to be three (3) levels of tyers who have been video-taped at our meetings and programs. All three levels include people who are excellent tyers. Perhaps the largest group is the first level. These are people whose skills range all the way up to the top of the chart. Some may be commercial tyers, or they simply tie for their own enjoyment and to fill their fly boxes. The second level tyer simply has a certain amount of regional or national recognition. This may have been earned through shows, articles written by or about the person, or maybe just ‘word-of-mouth’ reputation. The third level includes all of the above plus the tyer has had videos or dvd’s produced to market and sell to the fly tying consumer. So here is my proposal and how it effects or is affected by the levels identified above:

1. Create a ‘Primary’, a ‘Center’, and a ‘Master’ copy. Place the ‘Primary’ in a safe location and use the ‘Master’ for copying purposes. After use, this ‘Master’ will be placed in the safe location alongside the ‘Primary’.
2. The ‘Center’ copy will be either vhs or dvd and placed in the Catskill Fly Fishing Center for on-site viewing by visitors to the Center.
3. The Guild will determine how much money it would cost to make copies, both vhs and dvd, of the video.
4. The Guild will determine how much to charge for each copy based on: a) actual production cost; b) mailing expense; and possibly, c) a small donation amount.
5. The Guild will distribute a ‘pre-order’ commitment and payment announcement/order form to the membership. This will necessitate the Guild approving someone to accept orders, accept payment, forward information about the total order to the appropriate Guild authority and also forward the monies collected and order forms to the Guild Treasurer. There will be cut-off dates specified in the announcement and **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY TIME THIS VIDEO WILL BE DUPLICATED AND SOLD.**
6. The video will be copied strictly based on the number ordered. The ‘Master’ will be placed back into its location.
7. When the copies are ready they will be mailed to the member buyers.

This duplication and sale would allow ALL current members to have access to the video. Those who buy it can use it: for reference and viewing at their leisure; for their own learning and tying lesson; for a remembrance of something they personally witnessed; to have in their library just as they would a special book; as a memento and a piece of fly tying history.

This video can only help the Guild and the membership. It may induce more members to actually see and appreciate how Catskill flies are tyed and perhaps begin to tie them more frequently. That may help with one of the goals of the Guild, which is to perpetuate the knowledge of these flies. Now, as I noted above, ‘level 1 and level 2’ tyers have nothing to fear insofar as this video competing with any of their personal sales. If anything, it may help them gain or enhance recognition through the exposure and word of mouth. Level 3 tyers may consider this as competitive. However, I would point out that the video demonstrations

are much faster paced than an instructional video and probably appeal to a different type of audience. Regardless of what I just said, if any videoed demonstrator, regardless of 'level', wants his or her demonstration removed, we can edit it out on the 'Master' prior to using it for copying. The demonstrations of these individuals would remain in the 'Primary' and on the 'Center' copies.

In the future, demonstrators would be asked to sign a total waiver prior to video taping. This way, when volume 2 is complete, this will preclude any questionable situation.

What I've described really allows all members access to, availability of and opportunity to view these demonstrations, whether they can visit the Center or not and regardless of where they live.

Well, this is a survey, so what do you think? Let me hear from you by December 15<sup>th</sup> so I can tally up and report the results at the December meeting.

Thanks. Allan Podell (607)734-6257 or apodell @ stny . rr . com

### **From the Family of Al Carpenter**

Friends,

On behalf of the family, I want to thank all members of the Upper Susquehanna Chapter for your contribution to the memorial fund. We have been grateful for the honor and respect shown to my father, Al Carpenter, of Shinhopple, NY both in life and in death. I was surprised to find the memorial stone in place when I stopped to look at the river last week. I hadn't been up since the floods following Ivan and had stopped to survey the damage to the canoe ramp. I was surprised and delighted to find something new. The memorial is a bluestone bench at the top of the bank, very Catskill and very befitting, suiting the landscape and the man. The message on the stone bench, "The river was his life; the fishermen were his friends" along with his name and dates of birth and death, is a tribute to all the enthusiasts and conservationists that preserve the heritage of the Delaware. I hope I was the first to sit there and watch the river go by and I'm sure I won't be the last because I know that love of Catskill waters is a shared passion.

Thanks to each of you.

Diane Carpenter Crews

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 @juno . com

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

Would you be willing to accept this  
Newsletter via email?

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

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

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

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# Flyfishing University 2005

Flyfishing University's 4th Annual The World of Flyfishing Show will be held again at The O'Neill Center, January 7-9, 2005. Mark your calendars and plan on attending one of America's finest fly fishing shows.

## Fly Fishing New England Magazine

is a proud supporter and sponsor of Flyfishing University events.

The O'Neill Center    I-84 East or West,  
Danbury, Connecticut    Exit 4

## Directions to The O'Neill Center

**The official Show Hotel is The Inn At Ethan Allen**

1-800-742-1776

for information and reservations (Special Show Rates are available)

For more information  
contact Flyfishing University  
phone: (203) 746-4121  
toll-free fax: 1-877-746-9929

e-mail: [info@flyfishingU.net](mailto:info@flyfishingU.net)

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