



Volume 13, number 1

February 2010

The February meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2010, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY, at 2:00 P.M. This meeting will feature the annual materials swap. It is also the annual meeting for the election of officers. (See the copy of the guild's bylaws printed in "Looking Back Upstream" in this issue of the *Gazette*.)

This event has been taking place since December 1997, and throughout its life, it has been plagued by not having any concrete rules. Although it was started as a pure swap, it didn't take long to discover how difficult it was to keep it that way, especially as the number of participants grew. Some members would like to see it be a time for exchanging one's excess materials for someone else's, with no money changing hands. Instead of this ideal situation, it has grown into something much more resembling a flea market. This format is appealing to some members, as well.

In light of all this, we have decided on a couple of ground rules regarding our now fourteen-year-old swap. First, we feel that one should bring at least a few items that are earmarked just for swapping, while also feeling free to bring some things for sale. But we also are aware that this compromise is probably not the best solution. All suggestions will be welcomed by the guild in its ongoing effort to please all of the people all of the time.

—Dave Brandt, President

Memberships Renew in February

And this is February. If you receive the *Gazette* by the U.S. Mail, check the date to the right of your name on the envelope to see if you need to renew. If you receive the *Gazette* by e-mail, your renewal date should appear next to your name on the address line.

Membership is only \$10.00 per year. For renewals, send a check, your current address and phone number, and, if you wish to receive the *Gazette* by e-mail, your e-mail address to:

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

New this year: Couples can join at the same single-member dues rate of \$10.00!

New Masthead

The new masthead that now graces the *Gazette* was created by guild member Bob Albrecht, of Somerset, NJ. The guild is grateful to Bob for this elegant graphic design.

It's a fitting change to inaugurate our seventeenth year. See the timeline of the guild's history in "Looking Back Upstream."

—*Bud Bynack*

Catskill Fly Tyers Guild DVD ***Fly Tyers, Volume 2: A Guild Sampler***

The new guild DVD, *Fly Tyers, Volume 2: A Guild Sampler*, a two-disk set featuring Larry Duckwall, Agnes Van Put, Bob Osburn, Bill Leuszler, Ralph Hoffman, Dave Brandt, Tom Mason, Dave Pabst, Ralph Graves, Keith Fulsher, Allan Podell, and Ken Zadoyko, is now available to guild members only for a donation of \$20.00, with a limit of three DVDs per member—\$30.00 for nonmembers, which includes a guild membership. Shipping and handling is a flat media rate of \$3.00, whether you order one, two, or three DVDs. Make checks payable to the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild and send them, with your name and mailing address, to Erin Phelan, Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, P.O. Box 586, Westbrookville, NY 12785.

2010 Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Fly Tyers Rendezvous

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild annual Fly Tyers Rendezvous will be held Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. There will be a reception at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum to follow and an informal gathering for dinner at the Rockland House in the evening. Please contact Leslie Wrixon, fly-tying chair, if you would like to tie at the Rendezvous. Leslie can be reached at www.lesliewrixon@yahoo.com or at (508) 733-8535.

2008 Fly Tyers Rendezvous Fly Plate Raffle

Tickets are available for the 2008 Fly Tyers Rendezvous fly plate, consisting of flies tied by tyers from all over who attended the 2008 Rendezvous. The fly plate has been expertly framed by Ted Patlen.

The drawing for the plate will be on April 17, 2010, at the next Rendezvous, at the Rockland House. Only 200 tickets are available—\$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Send your check plus a self-stamped and self-addressed envelope (if you want your ticket stubs) to Erin Phelan, Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, P.O. Box 586, Westbrookville, NY 12785.

The fly tyers featured include Mike Stewart, Gerald Wolfe, Glenn VanBenschoten, Sam Scafidi, John Hvasta, Morris Kashuba, John Kavanaugh, Bruce Corwin, William Newcomb, Dan Caruso, Allen Podell, Ted Sypher, Paul Weamer, Howard Bartholomew, Robert H. Boyle, Ron Kozlowski, Dave Brandt, Mike Belloma, Rich Bogardus, Ken Tutalo, Ralph Graves, Jim Froio, John Shaner, Andrea VanBenschoten, Joe De Santis, Tom Babcock, Elmer Hopper, Jay "Fishy" Fullum, Peggy Brenner, Steven M. Wolfe, Chris Del Plato, Ted Patlen, Robert Petti, Bob Osburn, John Collins, Leslie Wrixon, Mike Hogue, Bob Patlen, Gary Sweet, and Aaron Hirschhorn.

Guild Notes

The annual Anglers Reunion Dinner, one of the inaugural events that celebrate Opening Day in the Catskills, will be held at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY, on March 31, 2010. Social hour is at about 5:30 P.M. and dinner at 6:30. Call the Rockland House at (607) 498-4240 for more details and reservations.

In New Jersey this spring, the guild will be participating in Cabin Fever Day at Ramsay Outdoors, Paramus, NJ (February 13), Cast 'n Blast in Succasunna, NJ (February 20), and at the Pequest Hatchery Open House, Pequest, NJ (March 27–28). If you would like to tie at any of these events, contact John Collins at (908) 859-1740 or flyjcfish100@msn.com.

Ed van Put underwent triple bypass surgery on December 29, 2009. If you'd like to send him a card while he's recuperating, his address is 1184 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY 12758.

The Fly Fishing Show, 2010 Report

This year's show was far better than last year's from the exhibitor's perspective. The guild enjoyed a great spot outside the main show entrance, and many passersby were eager to get involved. All participating guild tyers did a great job tying and interacting with the hordes of onlookers.

At this show we signed up twelve new members, and thirty-eight regular members renewed their memberships. The new two-DVD fly-tying video proved to be a great feature for members attending the show. Many of them do not have the chance to attend regular meetings and were happy to have a chance to buy it at the show.

Thanks go out to all the tyers who helped make it a really big show. They are Al Landheer, Charlie Bates, Andy Brasko, Paul Dolbec, Elmer Hopper, John Kavanaugh, Jessica Lettich, Brian McKee, Paul Murphy, and Hank Rope. I'd also like to thank the guild for allowing me to help out and thank guild secretary Erin Phelan and Judie DV Smith for their help and patience. Flies tied on Friday and Saturday were picked up by member and former president Hank Rope for Casting for Recovery.

—Joe Ceballos

Happy New Year, everyone! I can't believe that it is 2010 already. And I can't believe that this is now the fourth year that I have been writing "The Wet Fly Corner" for the *Gazette*!

The Wet-Fly Corner

With Andy Brasko, a Genuine Wet-Fly Fisherman



One of my favorite things to do is to fish the Willowemoc in the late-night hours, from 9:00 P.M. until midnight. Late-night fly fishing is challenging, a little tricky, and a bit spooky. What first got me intrigued with it were the stories of large browns coming out to feed, but what really got my attention was the sound of violent strikes being made on the surface of the water by feeding trout.

My go-to pattern for night fishing and the fly for this month is the White Miller. It has produced quite well for me on the Willowemoc and on my home waters of the Ken Lockwood Gorge in New Jersey. The White Miller is nothing more than an all-white fly with a little silver flash. However, I have also seen and tied a variation of this fly with a

red tail and gold tinsel. According to Mary Orvis Marbury in *Favorite Flies and Their Histories*, the White Miller was “copied after the familiar moth” and “has been in use nearly ever since the time when anglers first learned to cast the delusive fly” (p. 365).

I fish this fly when I see moths attracted to my head lamp when it’s turned on for a few moments to tie on a fly. I shorten my wet-fly leader from 9 feet for to 7½ feet and use just a two-fly rig. It’s just a little easier to manage and cast in the dark. If the stream flows are medium to high, I use a sinking line, and if the water level is low, I use a floating line. When it comes to night fishing, my motto is “Hold on!” The strikes of browns feeding at late night can feel like I’ve snagged a branch or log or just like an explosive tug. Then I watch line start to unwind from my reel.

I fish the White Miller in size 8, because I have not seen too many moths larger than size 8. Exceptions, such as the amazing luna moth, which is much larger, hardly ever are seen. However, I’ve observed moths around size 12 to 14 in great numbers, and when I do, I switch to size 12 White Miller, even though I consider a fly that size to be no more than a midge.

One of my late-night excursions was on the upper Willowemoc under the covered bridge. I remember that night very well. It was July Fourth weekend, 10:45 P.M., with a clear sky, full moon, and a heavenly body of stars. I was casting a two-fly rig and for about forty-five minutes taking fish almost on every cast. My largest fish that night was a fifteen-inch brown. Over the past few years, I have caught browns ranging from seventeen to twenty-three inches, and like Canon Greenwell, I was in my glory. This fly is a simple little fly that is easy and fun to tie. Consider giving it a try on your late-night fishing excursions.



Photo: Annie Brasko

White Miller

Hook: Mustad 3906, size 8

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

Tag: Silver Mylar tinsel, size 16/18

Body: Two strands of white Danville floss wrapped from back to front

Rib: Silver Mylar tinsel, size 16/18

Beard/False hackle: White dry-fly hackle from a Cabela's premium cape, folded and used as a full-collar hackle

Wing: Paired white goose quills (duck may also be used)

Head: One good soaking coat of Griff's Thin, two coats of Griff's Thick

Tying Notes

The pattern listed above is from Ray Bergman's *Trout*, plate 9. I also love the variation of the fly mentioned above, with a red tail from paired goose or duck quills and a tag and rib of size 16/18 gold Mylar tinsel. However, I prefer the all-white version pictured here for night fishing, because it supposedly imitates moths, and the red-and-gold variation looks more like a mayfly to me. But tie and fish whichever version pleases you most. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Monthly Fly Swap Open to Everyone

By Allan Podell

When you attend a Catskill Fly Tyers Guild meeting, remember that at every meeting, a fly swap is scheduled. There are two reasons for you to participate in the monthly fly swap. 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 of the pattern, your own name, and when the fly was tied. Don't attach the tags to the flies, but place both 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.



Guild Bylaws, Timeline, and a Definition of the Catskill-Style Fly

By Judie DV Smith

I've been going through my file cabinets, and I've run across enough information on the history of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild to construct a

timeline, looking back at the guild's development. I also came across a copy of the bylaws of the guild, registered with the State of New York. With the official business of the annual meeting coming up this month, members might like to know that we really do have rules and regulations and govern the organization by them.

Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Bylaws—Established May 1998

Article I. Name of Organization—Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

Article II. Location—Roscoe, NY

Article III. The Guild was formed with the following purposes in mind:

1. Preserve, protect and enhance our Catskill fly tying heritage.
2. Work cooperatively to promote the education of present day fly tyers.
3. Provide a forum for the sharing of information.
4. Promote the development of a future generation of Catskill Fly Tyers.
5. To take any other action and to do other things incidental to, or necessary or desirable in connection with the foregoing purposes.

Article IV. Membership

1. Any person interested in the objectives of this organization shall be admitted for membership in the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild upon payment of dues.
2. Application for membership shall be accompanied by the correct amount of dues.
3. The Executive Committee may from time to time establish various honorariums for members with privileges, powers and voting rights as they shall determine. Admission to special membership will be by vote of the membership.

Article V. Dues and Expenditures

1. The Executive Committee shall recommend the amount of annual dues. The dues amount shall be approved by the membership at the annual meeting.
2. Dues are payable by the annual meeting (February). Members not paid by June 1 of that year shall be dropped from membership.
3. Normal expenditures shall be approved and checks shall be signed by two of the three Co Directors. Expenditures other than mailing costs and materials, printing, and facility rent, shall be discussed at meetings and approved by majority of present members. Bills and receipts shall be retained.

Article VI. Meeting Of the Members

1. The annual meeting of the Guild will be held in February. The place will be determined by the Executive Committee, and the membership shall be given 15 days notice prior to the date in writing.
2. The regular monthly meeting—membership shall be advised by mail at least 15 days prior as to time & place.
 - A. Special—A special meeting may be called by the Executive Committee.
 - B. Quorum—Eight members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at a regular meeting.

Article VII.

1. Elected officers shall consist of three Co Directors.
 - A. The Co Director / President will be the chief executive officer of the Guild and will preside at all general, annual and special meetings. The President will appoint all standing and special committees. The term will be 3 years.
 - B. The Co Director / Vice-President will preside in the absence of the President. The term will be 3 years.
 - C. The Co Director / Secretary-Treasurer shall record and maintain minutes of all meetings and report same to the Guild. Will also notify membership of the time and place of meetings, maintain the list of members and collect dues, and maintain the financial records and report on same at each meeting.

Article VIII. Committees

1. Executive Committee—will consist of the 3 Co Directors, who may call special meetings if necessary to conduct any business needed before next scheduled meeting.

2. Nominating Committee—Co Director / President to appoint chairman and two members to be responsible for nominations and elections.
3. Audit Committee—shall be a standing committee and consist of 3 members. Will review financial records and make annual report.
4. Event & Education Committee—shall consist of three members. Each will have specific duties covering meeting programs, special events and educational programs.

Article IX. Amendments

An amendment may be proposed by any member to be considered at any meeting. Should the members present fulfill a quorum and vote to submit the amendment to the full membership, the Co Director / Secretary will mail a ballot with a copy of the amendment to the total membership within ten (10) days following the meeting. The ballot must be returned within thirty (30) days of the mailing. A two-thirds vote of responding members will carry the amendment and will be reported at the second meeting following the mailing.

Guild Timeline

Floyd Franke was first Co Director / President, from 1993 to 1999.

Our first Anglers Reunion Dinner was on the eve of Opening Day in 1996.

Allan Podell published the first official Catskill Fly Tyers Guild newsletter in January 1998.

Hank Rope was elected Co Director / President in May 1999.

The newsletter acquired its present name on May 18, 2000, voted on by members.

We first used our new camcorder for taping programs on March 17, 2001, with Ken Zadoyko doing the program.

The first Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Fly Tyers Rendezvous was April 13, 2002.

Dave Brandt was elected Co Director / President in February 2004.

Bud Bynack took over as the new editor of the *Gazette* in June 2005.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild definition of a Catskill fly was established in 1994 by a committee consisting of Martin Redcay, John Jacobson, Dave Brandt, Ken Mears, and Doug Fries and agreed on by the Guild:

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild acknowledges any pattern known to have originated roughly within the Catskills, and to have been designed largely for use there, to be a Catskill fly.

This would include the famous Catskill “style” floating flies created by the pillars of the American fly-tying fraternity, as well as the continually emerging dressings of contemporary Catskill fly tyers.

Obituaries and Memories

Ronald Pidgeon, eighty-three, passed away on Friday, October 16, 2009, at the Oneonta Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was born December 22, 1925, in Oneonta, the son of Peter and Carrie (Richards) Pidgeon. When Ron was a young boy, his father died in an accident on the D&H Railroad. His mother then married John Emmett, who raised him. Ron was a United States Navy veteran, serving during World War II. He married Thelma Ferguson on August 14, 1948, at the Main Street Baptist Church in Oneonta. Ron retired from the Oneonta City Fire Department as a captain in August of 1983 after serving close to thirty years with the department.

He was one of the founding members of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum and the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed his summer fishing trips out West. He also liked to hunt.

Ron is survived by his loving wife of sixty-one years, Thelma (Teddy) Pidgeon of Oneonta, two brothers, Jack and Jean Emmett of South Edmeston, and Gordon and Ann Emmett of Uniondale.

Memories of Ron Pidgeon? . . . I can tell you about my first time in Montana, with Ron's good fishin' buddy, Phil Bedford, and Bob Wikoff. We travelled in Phil's camper, having a great time, catching our share of fish, and sampling lots of new water. Most mornings would find us waking up along or at least near to some great piece of water or other. These mornings were nice, but after a couple dozen of them with no coffee (Phil didn't drink the stuff, so there was none on board), Bob and I were getting sort of twitchy for some. One morning, somewhere in Wyoming maybe, we awoke in a big campground that both Phil and Ron had frequented over the years. As we were dressing, there came a knock on the door, with Teddy Pidgeon standing outside. We had arrived there late at night and by design unknown to Bob or me, or by great fortune, Teddy was there to offer us a cup of coffee. We dove out of Phil's and dashed up into Ron and Teddy's camper to enjoy one of the best breakfasts on that trip.

In more recent years, I had the good pleasure to spend much time with Ron on the Delaware, often with Ernie Lussier and Bob Simonds along. Bob and Ron caught the sulphur spinner fall of the decade at our spot one night until about ten o'clock, while I was fishing about a mile from there, with much poorer results, as I remember. Ron was one of the founding members of our TU chapter, departing, with his pal Phil, the recently formed Al Hazard Chapter in Binghamton. They both thought that a mile or so was much easier to drive than about sixty miles, and what luck for our new chapter! Ron, Phil, and a few others did it all for the first thirty years or so. Ron volunteered for almost anything that needed doing, and I've never met anyone anywhere that didn't think the world of him. He will long be missed by many!

—*Dave Brandt*

Jack Gartside. John "Jack" Gartside was born in Everett, MA, in 1942. He served his country in the U.S. Air Force and was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam conflict. Jack was a past member of the Fly Casters of Boston, United Fly Tyers, Malden Anglers, the Federation of Fly Fishers, Point of Pines Yacht Club, Monaco Yacht Club, and Trout Unlimited. Jack passed away peacefully in the Bear Hill Rehabilitation Center in Wakefield on Saturday evening. He was sixty-six years of age.

Memorial donations in honor of Jack may be made to the American Museum of Fly Fishing, 4104 Main Street, Manchester VT 05254.

Jack liked surprise endings . . . in books, in movies, and in life, but I'm afraid his own demise was not one of them. When I was going through my own bout with the nasty stuff, Jack called me, and although he was definitely concerned with my plight, he did grill me a bit on my prediscovey symptoms.

When I first heard of the lump on his neck and of the cancer diagnosis, I sent him a card with a twenty in it and told him to buy a few malteds and fatten up a bit before he took the treatments. It was more of a "lighten the moment" gesture than anything else, but Jack was touched and called, and we talked for an hour.

He knew then how the final chapter of his life would play out, and he was going to make the best of the time he had left. "I've lived a good life," he told me on the phone, "I've no complaints."

—*Bob Mead*

More than 30 years ago, Mr. Gartside quit teaching high school English to fish more or less full time, living simply and supplementing his fly-tying income by driving a cab or grabbing a temporary job near a fishing destination. Once he helped make caskets; another time, he degreased snowmobile runners. . . .

“He’s who we’d all like to be if we all had more guts,” said Mike Quigley of Nahant, a friend and fishing buddy. . . .

“Perhaps I do resist financial success,” Mr. Gartside told the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* in 1994. “My grandfather always said, ‘There are no luggage racks on hearses, no pockets in shrouds.’ All we have is this life, and it’s up to us to make the most of it.”

—*Bryan Marquard*, Boston Globe

I’ve known Jack since the days before he and his cat forsook the taxi business for summers in Montana. He was always a wizard and turned scrap materials to gold. I, like so many of you, will miss his quick wit. The angels will be missing wing feathers, undoubtedly mixed with fur and flash from the devil’s hide. Fish on Jack!

—*Bob Rifchin*, posted on www.danblanton.com/bulletin.php

☞ 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.

Asked and Answered

An Occasional Feature, with Al Himmel

Q: Do bucktail flies catch more fish than doetails?

A: Doetail flies have a different body structure and therefore are more attractive to male trout.



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.