

CATSKILL FLY TYER'S GUILD

GAZETTE

April, 2003

Fly Tyer's Rendezvous Saturday, April 12th at 10:00am Rockland House, Roscoe, NY

Tyers and Guests scheduled to appear:

Rich Augustinsky	Howard Bartholomew	Don Bastian	Dave Brandt	John Collins	Chris Del Plato		
Ed Enflemean	Ray Grandner	Ralph Graves	Mike Grinsell	Tristan Hall	Lee Hartman	Mike Hogue	
Nancy Hopping	Misaka Ishimura	R. Emmett Johnson	Poul Jorgensen	Morris Kashuba	John Kavavaugh		
Ron Koenig	Ron Kozlowski	Deryn LaCombe	Bill Lavris	John Likakis	William Newcomb	Paul Morrisey	
Bob Osburn	Allan Podell	Brian Rapchak	Mark Romero	Dick Sabitz	Sam Scafidi	Bill Skilton	Joe Soma
Gary Sweet	Dick Talleur	Frank Thompson	Ken Tutalo	Loren Willia	Brad Wilson	Gerald Wolfe	

Present but not tying: Eric Leiser, Leon Chandler & other luminaries

A few final notes: Tyers, you should bring a lamp & extension cord. The Rockland House is a bit dark.

We encourage you to bring collectable flies and flies of your own design to sell. If you are tying with a specific material, you may sell that material. If you are a guide or represent a company you may bring catalogs and notices etc. to pass out. If you are an author you may bring books to sell. Please remember that this is a non-profit, free event. Use your own good judgement.

GUILD MEMBERS are encouraged to bring flies for monthly 'Fly Swap'

The Rockland House will offer a short luncheon menu.

Presidents message:

We are about to embark on a very important project. To further our objective of promoting Catskill Style flies, we will be teaching a series of tying classes. They will be held at the Center in Livingston Manor and will start Saturday, April 19 and continue on each Saturday thru May 17. Time of the classes will from 10am to noon. The more help we have the larger the number of students we can accept. Even if you believe you're not an accomplished tier, we still need your help. "If you want to learn, teach"

is sage advice. We will supply all materials and equipment the students will need. The cost to the students is zero. The pay for the instructors, is the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to keep the tradition of Catskill Style Flies alive and well. Contact Dick Smith at (607) 498-6024 or via email darbee1@juno.com.

To quote Doc Freed "We all have an obligation to participate." Hank Rope

MORE Information About These Classes, pg. 7

May Be of Interest – Share Your ‘Go To’ Flies:

This was a letter sent to the Guild

I picked up your materials at the Danbury fly show. If any of your members are guides, I wanted to tell them about the column I write called "Guide Flies" twice each month for a national publication called Fishing and Hunting News

www.fishingandhuntingnews.com).

The column is about the "go-to" flies we guides use when other flies aren't working. It's about those flies that guides either invent or adapt from existing flies. Usually they're easy to tie because we don't want to spend too much time at the vise and we use them because they work.

If you have some that you'd be willing to share, I'd like to feature them in my column. In exchange for sending a fly and sharing this info, I'll promote your guide business by including your name, guide service name and contact info (phone and web site) in the article.

Here's what I need:

One of the flies so I can take a photograph for the column. If the fly is especially small (18 and smaller), tie it on a larger hook so the detail can be seen in the photo. Since my editor is fussy about background colors, etc, it would be easiest if you could send a fly rather than a picture.

2) Tying sequence: the order the materials go on the hook. If any special tying techniques are required, please include them.

3) A list of materials including hook number and maker, and also the thread color and size.

4) Anything special about how the fly should be fished or certain conditions when it works best.

5) A short statement about why you decided to try this pattern.

6) Which species does it work on?

7) Why do you think it works so well?

8) Any other stories that will make the piece more interesting (e.g. what happened the first time you tried it; what clients say about it; etc.)

9) Your Name, Address, Guide Service Name, Email, Phone, Web Page. If you know other guides who might be interested, please give them my contact information. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at this email address or by phone (802-626-8076).

Thanks.

Tony Lolli, POB 417
East Burke, VT 05832

GET WELL WISHES: Larry Duckwall, Guild member and a friend to many, was recently taken ill. While he's on the mend and getting his strength back, how about taking a few minutes to drop him a cheerful line or two. Larry Duckwall, 501 Meadow Court, Glen Mills, PA 19342

New Book In The Making: A new book is being written by Paul Marriner focusing on Canadian flies. Tyers, from all over the United States and Canada, are involved including Guild member Mark Romero who has been assigned to tie 6 flies for the book. So far, Mark has completed 3 flies and he is in the process of acquiring additional materials that will allow him to complete the final 3. The book promises to be quite definitive on its chosen subject. More information will be forthcoming, as it becomes available. MR

Passing of a Conservationist:

Author and conservationist John Cole of Brunswick, ME passed away unexpectedly January 8, 2003 just prior to his 80th birthday. John's classic book Striper is one of the great fishing stories and spear-headed the early conservation efforts for the species. John was the recipient of the Theodore Gordon Arnold Gingrich Literary Award in 2000 for his body of work on both salt water and fresh water fishing.

His book "Striper," is about the effects of pollution and commercial fishing on striped bass and about his days as a fisherman. Pat Kelleher, the New England regional executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association, of which Mr. Cole was a member, said that "Striper," published in 1978 and now out of print, inspired him to leave commercial fishing and become a conservationist. He then became friendly with Mr. Cole, and they often fished for striped bass together.

Mr. Cole was born Feb. 26, 1923, and grew up on Long Island, where he worked as a commercial fisherman and was friendly with many resident artists, among them Jackson Pollock. Mr. Cole would often lament that, while low on money, he sold one of Mr. Pollocks' paintings before they fetched millions of

dollars.

Mr. Cole was perhaps best known as an environmental crusader. When officials wanted to open an oil refinery in Trenton, Me., a stone's throw from the entrance to Acadia National Park, Mr. Cole sent a reporter to a New Jersey refinery to describe its pollutant effects. He lobbied against deforestation and hunting, and sought to protect every inch of the state, from the rocky seashore to the roaring Allagash River.

Fishing The Yellow Drake: by Tristan Hall

The Yellow Drake is one of the least known flies, at least from my observation. Many anglers will see one and say "Look, a Potamanthus!" This is because they both come off at the same time, late June. They hatch right along with Light Cahills and Sulphurs as well. One unique thing about the yellow drakes though, is that they come off right at dusk. The time for fishing them is very short, as it is already getting dark. Even though they hatch so late, they hatch straight through the night as well. If you have the patience, you can still catch fish after it's pitch dark out.

As for identifying them, overall, they look pretty similar to the Green Drake, which hatches earlier in June, except they are about 10 to 12, sometimes larger, most Green Drakes don't go much smaller than 10. The Yellow Drake has a few clear distinctions from other mayflies, especially the Potamanthuses. They have dark, brown tails as well. The biggest, and easiest way to distinguish them from other flies hatching, is a very noticeable brown-gray blotch on their wings.

When it comes down to the nitty-gritty of fishing them, the yellow drake can prove most valuable. Even though they hatch late, they hatch in large numbers. The fish respond readily to this, popping many off of the surface, and often out of the air. A good choice when they start coming off is a cripple. I have saved many a sour night on this hatch with a crippled dun. Then, switching to a parachute, or Catskill does nicely straight through until you're tired and want to go home. After dark, any large, light fly does nicely. The fish will take it as a drake, or as any of the other flies, like the Potamanthus,

Cahills, and sulphurs. The Yellow Drake is an overall valuable fly. I strongly suggest having at least two with you, because as I've found out, it's very easy to lose one on a break-off to the biggest fish in the pool. Then, you still have one for the runner up.

Report on the Somerset Show, Jan. 24 – 26:

By Paul Murphy

Al Ampe set up Thurs. night with small help from me. Al provides the table and chairs for the NJ events and has the set-up drill down to 5 minutes more or less.

The table was covered Friday by Hank Rope, Brian McKee, Rich Bradley, John Kavanaugh, Andy Brasko and Andy Sutton. John and both Andys were back Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday Hank Rope tied again with John Collins, Sam Scarfini, Peter Heller, Mark Romero and Misa Ishamura. Sunday the Jim Matorano's, Sr. & Jr., Bruce Pollard, Tom Emrich and Mark Romero did the demonstrations. Al Ampe came in at the close to knock down the back-drop with Mark and John Kavanaugh. This set-up and knock-down is a precision drill almost as fascinating as the tying. One tyer was seen chasing Al through the lobby trying to retrieve a neck that was wrapped in the table cover-tyers had been warned to move quickly and have the table cleared by 4:50 Sun. afternoon.

Dave Brandt did duty as our Brink's service: picking up and delivering the cash each evening and morning. We had an offer of help from Bill Newcomb but were able to cover the tying without bringing him in from his tying table inside.

The result was 15 new members, 11 renewals and lots of people stopping by to learn about the Guild. Thanks for all the help, not the least was the coaching by Dick and Judie Smith, which made the job easy.

Scientific Study Reveals Hypnotizing Effect of Feathers: by Bill Millard

A recent study has indicated that chicken feathers give off certain pheromones, that can actually hypnotize men and women, causing them to purchase ungodly amounts at outrageous prices. When stored in large quantities in enclosed spaces, the phero-

mones (from the feathers) cause memory loss and induce the nesting syndrome (similar to the one squirrels have before the onset of winter, i.e. storing food), therefore perpetuating their species. This "nesting" leads to very large agglomerations of feathers. It is posited that the pheromones may come from a symbiotic bacteria and these agglomerations serve to gather large quantities of bacteria together where they breed and further affect the afflicted with memory loss.

Additionally, anechoic chamber tests have also revealed that these feathers emit a very high-pitched sound, heard only by a select few of breed of men and women known as 'fly tyers.' One researcher commented "It's like some ungodly siren song. I was almost lured in myself until I saw the price tag."

When played backwards on an LP, the sounds are heard as chants 'buy me, cut me, whip me, tie me!' In order to overcome the so-called 'feeding frenzy effect' that these feathers cause, one must wear a face mask when entering a storage facility and use ear plugs to avoid being pulled into their grip.

Studies have also indicated that aliens have inhabited the earth, helping to spread the effect that these feathers have on the human population. They are called FISHING SHOP CLERKS. They can sometimes be heard babbling in their own language, using words like isonychia and meniscus.

One surprising find in this study is the affect on the integrity of those affected. It was found that these same pheromones cause a pathological need to secrete these feather purchases away when taken home (or at least blend them into the existing stash), and when asked by a significant other if the feathers are new, the reply is "I've had them for a while".

Some BOOK REVIEWS: by Mike Hogue

Tying Flies with CDC, By Leon Links, Stackpole Books, \$24.95. Leon Links is a is a Dutch fly tyer and this is largely a collection of European tyers' flies. The book highlights material, development stages and history. Links selects different tyers and writes about each fly. An insight into how the tyer developed the patterns is given along with a history of the fly and how some of the flies are fished. In

some instances step by step photos are given along with a written description. Most of the patterns are for trout but salmon and steelhead patterns are included along with some stillwater flies.

Perhaps the biggest draw back to the book is the organization. The patterns do not flow nor do they seem to be arranged in much of an order. For example, flies from tyers could have been arranged by history or by style, country or even type. Patterns appear randomly tossed in which doesn't make much sense. There are clear color photos with many unique ideas. If you are interested in CDC this is one of the few books out on this topic.

101 Innovative Fly Tying, By Charles Meck, The Lyons Press, \$24.95.

Charles Meck is an author from PA who has written several books and a host of magazine articles. 101 Steps contains interesting ideas, tips and hints from several fly tyers. The book is mostly broken down by types of flies dry, wet, et al, along with tips for making each different sort. Included in the book are patterns for the Green Weenie, Patriot dry and the Bugskin Crayfish. Tips on how to make a whip finish on a bobbin and several other handy ideas are shown. The book itself is written pretty well. The big drawback to this book is that the editors did a poor job on the layout. The color photos are dingy, hard to see and not very clear. The editors also got skimpy on the size of the book which makes it hard to look at. This is surprising since The Lyons Press generally has some of the best written, printed and edited books on the market.

Mayflies Top to Bottom: Expert Tying and Innovation. Shane Stalcup. Frank Amato Publications, \$39.95 hb (pb is \$29.95).

Shane Stalcup is a commercial fly tyer from Denver, Colorado. Shane's book is perhaps one of the most interesting and truly innovative books out. Shane takes a look at redesigning trout flies using mostly synthetic materials. The goal is to create new patterns which match different stages of mayflies, making something that is realistic, easy to tie and something that fishes well. That in and of itself is very difficult. The pictures, patterns, descriptions and the layout are all top notch. Patterns can be converted easily from Western to Eastern without too much trouble. This is a very well done book and has enough interesting ideas for any tyer at any level. This one is a keeper.

Why Fishing is Better than Hunting:

by Bob Albrecht

In my part of the country, fall is a great time for trout fishing. The water is low and clear; all the loud-mouthed kids have gone back to school, and the streams are populated with unemployed trout bums and retired geezers who are reasonably polite if not always completely sober. The weather is nippy but comfortable, much better than the ninety-degree days of summer. The browns are making their upstream spawning run, and the rainbows are hungry and active.

There's only one problem. Deer season comes in the fall. So if you're also a deer hunter you must choose between deer hunting and trout fishing, at least for a few days. So I usually find myself sitting in a tree stand in November, holding a rifle and wishing it was a fly rod, waiting for 200 pounds of fly-tying material to come wandering by so I can pull the trigger and get back to a real sport. Yes, even though I enjoy both activities, I firmly believe trout fishing is better than deer hunting. Here are a few reasons why:

- You don't have to spend several hours looking for trout rubs before you go trout fishing.
- When you gut a trout, you don't get your arms yucky clear up to your shoulders.
- A trout can't smell you a half mile away.
- You don't have to sight in your fly rod.
- When you serve trout to your kids, you don't have to say, "Taste it, you'll like it."
- It's okay to bathe before you go trout fishing.
- You don't *have* to bathe *after* you go trout fishing.
- You don't have to smear coon pee on your clothes to catch a trout.
- When you catch a trout, you don't have to drag it out of the woods.
- You don't have to pay someone a small fortune to process your trout.
- When you catch a trout, you don't have to have part of it made into jerky and give it to your friends (whether they want it or not).
- No one ever fell out of his trout fishing place.
- You can catch a trout and turn it loose. (Try that with an 8 point buck.)
- You don't have to dress like a clown to go trout fishing (but you can if you want to).
- A fly rod doesn't kick the heck out of your shoulder.

- A trout won't suddenly appear while you're answering the call of nature.
- No one ever accidentally shot his buddy with a fly rod.
- When you take a trout's picture, its tongue isn't invariably hanging out.
- You don't have to get your friends to help you carry your trout (unless you catch a verrrrrrrry big trout).
- AND, last but not least ... when you catch a trout, you don't have to eat its liver and pretend you like it.

Embarrassing Moments in Fly Tying:

By Allan Podell

While we all no doubt have had embarrassing moments fly fishing, how about those instances during, or as a direct result of, fly tying? Here are a couple of mine for example:

How about going into a womens lingerie department and looking at the various colors and designs of panty hose. As if that wasn't enough, the saleswoman engages you in conversation and asks what size your wife, sister or mother is! As you try to explain, you realize she hasn't a clue what you're talking about and she proceeds to call store security personnel. Like a magnet, all the customers, entirely women I might add, seem to be attracted to the goings-on. Finally after finding an attentive ear, one of the security people is a bait fisherman who belongs to TU, your reason for being there is somewhat understood. You quickly and quietly make a beeline to the nearest exit thinking, 'Damn bugs and their \$%^&** trailing shucks'.

Another example: You learn about the small multi-compartment plastic travel boxes at Wally's World so you decide to get some. After all, the price you are told is really great. So as you enter the store you go to the Sporting Goods Dept. but can't find those boxes. So you decide to forget about them. Well, as long as you are there you decide to get some Sally Hansen Hard As Nails(head cement you know). As you walk through the Cosmetics Dept. you happen to spot the aforementioned plastic boxes. They come in several colors so you figure, 'Hey, different colors for different types of flies. Great idea'. You end up picking out a dozen boxes and clear Sally Hansen. Okay, on to the Craft Dept. because you need some

craft fur, closed cell foam, fine gauge wire, glass beads and a skein of Dazzleaire yarn. At the checkout counter you lay all these things out in front of the checker. You notice the burly guy behind you in line as he looks at the items and gives you a funny look. The checkout person hasn't looked up as she scans these items. As soon as she completes the task and gets the total, she still hasn't looked up, she says, "That'll be \$\$\$ Ma'am! Oh excuse me."

Fly tying - the extents we go to, and things we go through.

Any 'embarrassing moment(s)' you'd care to share? If so, we'd all like to hear about it(them). Send to the editor.

Untitled: by Charlie Beck

I'm not exactly a pro with a canoe but I have served as Trip Director for two established summer camps in the northeast. I cannot recall a single incident where the kids or myself were in jeopardy of losing gear or suffering bodily harm. With a record of numerous safe trips, I may be shuttling my trout fishing buddies between riffles with a mite too much confidence in my abilities.

Worse yet, to dump wearing chest waders versus my bathing suit could have serious consequences including the loss of rods and/or several hundred patiently tied flies. The tale I'm about to share I had asked Allan, my fly tying mentor, friend and your editor, to keep under one of his many hats.

This fine day we had disembarked from my canoe in the area of the Game Lands on the Westbranch of the Delaware to wade and entice the browns or wild rainbows to our assorted collection of Sulphurs, Olives, or whatever.

The quiet was abruptly broken by the loud voices of teens and younger hollering between canoes as they zigged and zagged in route to wiping us out. Few of these young adventurers looked as if anyone on their camp staff had given a small craft handling test or instruction for that matter. We quickly waded to the safety of the shallows near the bank and watched this motley crew weave back and forth down the riffle we had attempted to fish a few minutes earlier. Although the campers wore life jackets, there was little evidence of plastic bags of dry clothing or anything necessary for comfort or safety on the river.

Once the sun dips behind the mountain the temperature drops and a wet bathing suit and T shirt will not suffice. Finally, the two senior citizens supervising this group appeared. They too exhibited few canoeing skills. As they passed us at a rather slow jagged pace I let out a loud reprimand of how poorly this jaunt was being run and that they all shared a risk of dumping and possibly suffering the effects of hypothermia. No reply was forthcoming and the group disappeared around the bend.

Figuring that the armada had put the fish down, we climbed into the canoe and started down river. Rather than disturb the remaining riffle in front of us, being the stern paddler, I cut a sharp right and headed between two small outcrops of undergrowth. My plan was to disembark a short way below, hop out, anchor the canoe in the moderately fast run and fish. We never made it. The canoe had picked up speed. Allan had no room to paddle as the outcrops were home to some underbrush whose branches reached out toward my one and only 5/6 wt. I executed a hard sweep and without warning over we went into the fast but thankfully three foot deep cold water. Everything unsecured floated about us, including my yellow bodied waterproof camera.

The abrupt shift had saved the rod but had left us soaked and scrambling for gear. Fortunately nothing was lost or injured but my pride. I turned to Allan, apologized and swore him to secrecy as my long run of pride and self-esteem were in jeopardy. It seemed that the powers to be had acted quickly to punish me for sounding off at the two senior camp leaders that had the brass to run the river with their charges regardless of preparation. Hopefully they arrived at their pickup without incident

FLY TYING 'TIPS' CONTEST

This contest will remain ongoing so we can get more responses. Cmon guys, it shouldn't be that difficult to think of just **one(1)** tying tip that you can suggest to another tyer. You don't have to be an 'expert' to have a tip. Often, the most simple ideas are the ones that have the most value. The funny thing is that they are also taken for granted or just overlooked. So, think of something you do that makes your tying easier, faster, more enjoyable, more effective, makes your flies look better or work better. Put it in writing and send it in. You don't have to write an essay. A sentence or two will do.

When a sufficient quantity of tips has been received, they will be published.

MORE ABOUT FLY TYING CLASSES:

By Bob Osburn

The GUILD'S fly tying course will be held at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center on Sturday mornings from 10am to noon. One fly will be tied at each session. The instructors will bring the hooks and materials required for each session. If the Guild has the hooks and materials required, they will be used.

The dates, the flies to be tied and the materials needed are:

April 19 – Lead wing Coachman, wet fly #10
Hook – Mustad 3906 or other wet fly hook #10
Tip – gold flat tinsel
Body – peacock herl
Hackle – brown
Wing – natural grey duck quill

April 26 – Hare's Ear (gold rib) Nymph, #10
Hook – Mustad 3906B or similar #10
Tail – brown hen hackle fibers
Rib – gold oval tinsel(optional)
Body – hare's ear dubbing
Wing Case – grey duck quill

May 3 – Black Nosed Dace, streamer #6
Hook – Mustad 3665A or other streamer
Tail – red yarn
Rib – silver oval tinsel
Body – flat silver tinsel
Wing – white then black then brown hair

May 10 – Light Cahill, dry fly #12
Hook – Mustad 94840 #12 or similar
Wing – woodduck flank
Tail – light ginger
Body – light ginger dubbing
Hackle – light ginger

May 17 – Adams, dry fly #12
Hook – Mustad 94840 #12 or similar
Wing – grizzly hackle tips (hen)
Tail – grizzly & brown hackle barbs
Body – muskrat dubbing
Hackle – grizzly & brown hackle

All Guild members are urged to join in and help. Your participation will make our first fly tying course successful.

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 Feb.

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