

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild

GAZETTE

April, 2004

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, April 17, 2004

'The FLY TYERS RENDEZVOUS'

10:00am till 3:00pm at the Rockland House
Set-Up at 9:30. Event open to all and no admission fee.

Maybe everyone is busy tying flies, shopping for new gear, searching for things placed in 'safe places' from last season or cleaning their gear. Regardless, not much is doing in the way of articles.

However, there are three(3) unfortunate things that need to be reported.

* "February 8, 2004

Bob Nastasi, a most respected fly fishing personality of our time, died today. After a courageous six year battle with kidney failure and lung cancer, he died at 1:30 A.M. this morning at his home on Barnegat Bay.

Bob Nastasi grew up in the rough Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn back in the 40's and 50's. He lived in a tenement building with two older brothers and two younger sisters. Thanks to his dad, Joseph, a New York City cab driver, he spent his childhood summers in Adonia, New York, where he developed a close association with the outdoors through his aunt and cousins. When Bob was a teenager, he spent weekends fishing with his Uncle Pete on board the "Two Brothers" out of Howard Beach. Using "live and cut baits", they fished the wrecks off of Manhattan and Long Island, regardless of the weather.

Bob began a career in the advertising business in New York City as a graphic artist and specialized in the movie industry where he shared boardroom sessions with such greats as Mel Brooks. He married Roseanne in the mid 60's and moved to Wayne, New Jersey where they raised a family of three boys. Bob met Al Caucci in 1970 through a mutual friend at Al's vacation home in the Poconos. He came to check out Al's house, but when Bob saw Al's fly tying and 'bug' aquarium setup, he never stopped asking questions. They talked all day and into the night about bugs, and flies, and trout, and a life long friendship was born. Al says that Bob's curiosity, artistic talent, and powers of observation are a rarity that he has always admired. "I have always felt privileged with our close association and friendship, we were like brothers. We will all suffer a great loss without him," said Al.

In 1970, Al and Bob formed "Comparahatch Limited", corporation for their published works, fly tying materials, and trout flies. It was also the namesake of their first book, COMPARAHATCH and their ground breaking trout flies; Comparadun, Compara-nymph, Compara spinner, etc., encompassing hundreds of patterns that knowledgeable anglers use to this day.

Bob Nastasi has a long and distinguished career in the world of fly-fishing. He co-authored the following books with Al Caucci: COMPARAHATCH(1973); HATCHES(1975); FLY TYER'S COLOR GUIDE(1978); INSTANT MAYFLY IDENTIFICATION GUIDE(1983); and HATCHES II(1987) which is still considered "the" defining book on angling entomology in the fly fishing world and remains in hardcover and has never been printed in paperback. After 70,000 copies sold, it is still considered the #1 book on the subject introducing incredible photos of insects and revolutionary fly patterns that changed the way people trout fish to this day. Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi fly patterns include the famous comparadun, compara-caddis, and a raft of patterns that include imitations for every mayfly species and the subsequent stages of each, which includes hundreds of modern day fly patterns. Bob and Al started the Caucci/Nastasi Fly Fishing School for trout and bonefish in 1984, which became a nationally famous fly fishing school and is still in operation today. Bob resigned from the fly fishing business in 1990, with the understanding that both Bob and Al would team up again to write more books in the future. Bob's health problems started in 1997 put a hold on their plans for new books."

* **Paul Dahlie**, Director of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, died in early March.

* **Leon Chandler**, Distinguished fly-casting demonstrator, world-renown ambassador of fly fishing and fly line developer for Cortland Inc.. died in March.

A True Fly Fishing Story And That's No Bull By Brad Wilson

The day started with the alarm blasting me out of bed in the wee hours of the morning. My day had been planned for a week and those plans were to meet my brother-in-law at a local put-in-take trout stream. This stream is located in the middle of rolling hills, farms and pastures. I arrive at the agreed upon location. My brother-in-law arrived minutes later.

We ready our arsenal, fly rod in hand, and proceed to the "honey hole". Watching every step, it kind of reminded me of a walk through a minefield, except the results of a misplaced foot in this case would result in just a "poopy shoe".

The stream looks good and the stocking trucks had unloaded their goods a few days prior. I say, "I'll go up stream and you go down" to my brother-in-law. The fishing was spotty and almost not worth the walk through the long, messy pasture. After about an hour or so, we both agree to give it another half hour and then split. I spotted a good size trout in the middle of the stream. Thinking, "this guy needs a big fly", I put on a size 4 streamer and with a long back cast, managed to hook one of the large pasture dwellers! Yep, old Bessy, right in the hind flank. The hook was set on the forward cast and the fight was on! Zing.... my reel was smoking and my line was speeding across the pasture with one mad cow hooked to the other end. "WOW, here comes my backing", I yell to my brother-in-law. Enough is enough. I stop the spool with my palm and SNAP, fight's over and Bessy was free. True story and that's no bull!

Partner Wanted for Fishing Trip

I am planning a 1 week trout fishing trip to NW Montana or SE BC and SW Alberta for late August or early September, and need a partner to share cost of accommodations and guide/driftboat expenses for at least 2 days drift fishing. Also wade fishing without a guide for remainder of week. We will fish primarily dry flies for west slope Cutthroat, and Rainbow trout. Est. cost about \$2K per person inc airfare. Several possible destinations look good but am open to other suggestions and flexible on plan. Prior to April 19 or after May 10 please contact:

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