



Volume 13, number 3

June 2010

**The June meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild** will be held in the Education Building of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum on Old Route 17 in Livingston Manor, NY, on Thursday, June 17, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. Mike Canazon, a bamboo rod maker in Livingston Manor, NY, will discuss bamboo rods, their dynamics, and their tapers. He will have a selection of rods for all to cast, so those who attend can feel the difference between parabolic, progressive, and dry-fly actions.

Mike learned his craft from Bob Taylor, arguably the greatest living rod maker. Time permitting, we can discuss rod-building techniques and tour the rod makers' workshop at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, where we can see some of the tools involved in making cane rods.

This is a different program from what we regularly offer, but it follows up on an excellent presentation Mike offered several years ago. That program was a winter meeting and so did not offer the opportunity to try casting the several actions described above.

## **The 2010 Fly Tyers Rendezvous**

The 2010 Fly Tyers Rendezvous, sponsored by the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, has come and gone for another year. This year's edition of the Rendezvous, like those in previous years, was a resounding success. The Rendezvous, to me, is about greeting the public, celebrating the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, catching up with old friends, making new ones, and celebrating the fact that spring has once again returned to our beloved Catskills.

This year, we had a full house, with every tying table occupied. We drew tyers from all across the Northeast, from New Hampshire to Maryland, with folks representing all manner of tying. A hearty thank you goes out to all the tyers. Also thank you for your donation of flies to add to the guild archive and to create our next fly plate.

By the way, we held the drawing for this year's plate. Dave Brandt dipped his claw into the bucket and pulled out, of all possible entries, Judie Darbee's ticket. Congratulations to Judie.

Special thanks go to Erin Phelan, Judie Darbee, and Dave Brandt, to Tom and Marea Roseo for the use of The Rockland House, and to Ken Kobayashi for his superb lighting job. I hope to see all of you at the 2011 Fly Tyers Rendezvous.

—Leslie Wrixon

## **New Column: "CJ's Flies"**

With this issue, we welcome a new regular feature, "CJ's Flies," a column by "Catskill John" Bonasera, as he's known on the Internet from the handle he uses on sites such as Joe Fox's Sparse Grey Matter (<http://www.sparsegreymatter.com>). As those who

have encountered his work there know, John ties exquisite flies, builds lovely cane rods, and is a passionate student of Catskill angling history, all accomplished with boundless energy and seemingly effortless proficiency. As with Andy Brasko's "Wet Fly Corner," we hope you enjoy and learn from "CJ's Flies."

## **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 available to guild members only for a donation of \$20.00, with a limit of three DVD sets 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 DVD sets. 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.



### **The Cinberg**

The headwaters of the Neversink River begin at Slide Mountain, the highest peak in the Catskills. The East Branch and the West Branch flow through what's known as Frost

Valley and meet in Claryville. This is the water that Theodore Gordon fished, as did E. R. Hewitt, and it's where many Catskill fly patterns were invented, tested, and tweaked.

One such pattern is the Cinberg, a fly custom made for the rough-and-tumble pocket water of the Neversink. I first learned of this fly from an old *Sports Afield* magazine dated April 1979. Phil Chase and Larry Madison wrote an article on the comeback of the Delaware. In it was a mention of the Cinberg, a fly concocted by Doc Cinberg. It was a "caddis spider," the story read, "made with wood duck feathers." I was intrigued by this partial dressing and tried to imagine what a spider with wood duck feathers would look like, but I came up with nothing. Unfortunately, like many local patterns that are simply forgotten, this one was also. Or so I thought . . .

Around two years later, with the Cinberg dressing mystery still in the back of my mind, I got a phone call from my close friend Rob J. He and I share a love of cane rods and old fly patterns. He told me he had been in touch with Phil Chase, and the two had fished the Neversink together. As he was talking, something clicked. Phil Chase . . . Neversink . . . wood duck . . . Cinberg!

Phil sent Rob some pictures of a Cinberg, along with some tips on tying it, and I learned that Phil used to tie them for Doc Cinberg himself. Doc, ever so particular about how they should look, would separate them into two piles, "good" and "bad." Doc would take the "good" pile, and Phil kept the rest.

This fly was designed to be fished on a short line in pocket water. Cinberg would have three or four feet of line out past the tip top with a nine-foot leader and work the



water from close in for a perfect drift every time. “Ed Hewitt taught me how to stand on their tails,” he would say.

The Cinberg is a classic example of a fly that looks like nothing, yet imitates everything. Its stiff hackle and tail, tight, slim body, and oversized wood duck collar is perfect for the fast-moving water for which it was made.

The original dressing was as follows.

Hook: Mustad 94840, size 14  
Collar: Wood duck flank feather  
Tail: Brown or ginger spade hackle  
Body: Tan fox fur  
Hackle: Brown

Phil later added a sprig of wood duck to the tail, to go along with the spade hackle. Either way is fine.

The trick to this fly is the collar of wood duck. Wood duck does not wrap very well, so the flank feather is tied in and wrapped first. Choose a good-sized feather and strip off the short barbs so that you have a squared tip section with equal-length barbs. Tie this to the hook with the tips pointing to the front, over the eye. Leave a small gap behind the eye, as you would on a classic Catskill dry. You are going to need this gap for finishing the fly. You are looking for the flank collar to be three to four sizes larger than the hackle.



When you wind the wood duck, you want the flank feather to spin slightly, like deer hair on a bass bug, so that the barbs are evenly wound around the hook.

Then tie the rest of the fly with a tail, body, and hackle of a size appropriate for a size 14 hook and, after tying off the hackle, pull the wood duck flank back, bring the tying thread through it, and use the thread to build up a dam in front of the wood duck to keep it in the round. This may take a little practice, but the result is a beautiful classic pattern that has a rich history on one of the great Catskill rivers.

(Photos: John Bonasera)

### *Looking Back Upstream*



## **The Rat-Face McDougall**

**By “Mr. McDougall”**

*From the Darbee archives, courtesy of Judie DV Smith*

Somebody has asked me for a short essay on the Rat-Face McDougall. My part in it has been a pure case of highway robbery.

This super dry fly was first invented and made by H. A. Darbee, Livingston Manor, N.Y. I first heard of it a few years ago and stopped in at his place and got a couple. The brown trout liked them. Darbee’s models were quite large and the bodies were made of tawny colored deer hair.

I took it upon myself to “arrange” them a little, as these musical birds say when they take your favorite ballad and turn it into a concerto and ruin it. But, as far as I can find out, the slightly altered ones were as good or better than the originals.

I had just made up my first one of these and Mary Dimock, a friend of my daughter, was looking it over. She said, “This fly has got ‘IT’ and we’ll name it Rat-Face McDougall”. So, in addition to stealing the model from Darbee, I had an indirect part in giving it its alias.

But, aside from all that, they do catch trout. They are the devil to make, but they wear like iron. If the making bothers you, you can get them from Darbee.

I have been making them principally in two types, more or less like the light and dark Cahill, respectively. Tail brown buck tail, body light grey buck tail, wings cream colored, or white with dark center, hackle points, and ginger hackle; and tail brown bucktail, body dark grey buck tail, wings barred plymouth rock hackle points, hackle rhode island red.

Putting on the body is a nuisance that may destroy your ambition to fish with a Rat-Face McDougall. Put the tail on, but not the wings, as they get in the way. Cut a little bundle of grey bucktail from nearest the hide, about 1/4” long and 1/8” in diameter. Lay it on the hook lengthwise at the base of the tail and pass the thread over it the way you would to tie on the wings of a wet fly. As you pull the thread tight, let the fibers slide around the hook. Tightening the thread makes them flare out where the thread pinches them. Wind the thread through to the bare shank of the hook and put on another bundle and keep repeating this until 2/3 or 3/4 of the shank of the hook is covered and it looks like an unkempt porcupine. Then clip it down to the right body size and shape and put on the wings and legs, and more power to you!

Mr. McDougall

In *Fish Flies: The Encyclopedia of the Fly Tier’s Art* (Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 2005), Terry Hellekson writes the following about the origins of the fly, further explaining its origin and identifying “Mr. McDougall.”

This pattern was created by Harry Darbee and renamed after a pattern previously called the Beaverkill Bastard. In a 1975 letter to me, Harry explains the name change in this way:

As I was tying up an order of Bastards late one evening in the summer of 1939, Percy Jennings, an amateur fly tier from Cold Springs Harbor, known among anglers for the time he caught a three-and-one-half-pound brown on a backcast, came by our house. He looked down at my vise and asked why I didn’t tie the same fly on a smaller hook. He thought it would work better for the local trout population. I said, “Why don’t you do it?” So he did, and it was while Percy was tying one of these that a young friend of his daughter, Mary Dimock, came by. She saw the fly and said, “Boy, that’s got personality.” Percy, knowing that the fly had a troublesome name among our gentile [sic] [*that is, “genteel” —ed.*] fly-casting friends, rose to the occasion and challenged Mary to give it a name. She was up to the challenge, saying, “I think it’s a Rat-Faced McDougall.” And so the fly was dubbed.

Later, Harry Darbee had a friend by the name of Kienbusch\* who had failing eyesight but loved the fly. He tied some up using white calf tail for the wings so the fly could be better followed on the water. They worked so well that they became the standard pattern for the Rat-Faced McDougall. (pp. 137–38)

*\*Editor's note:* This would be Carl Otto Kretzschmar von Kienbusch (1884–1976), a lifelong New Yorker and successful businessman. The Princeton University Library houses the Kienbusch Angling Collection, consisting of manuscripts and letters relating to the history and method of angling collected by Kienbusch (Princeton Class of 1906). These range from *The Art of Angling* (circa 1651), by Thomas Barker, to Edward R. Hewitt's articles on fish and fishing (1947) and include Joseph Crawhall's *The Compleatest Angling Book* (1881), *Biblioteca Piscatoria*, by William Harrison, *Fishless Days* (1954), by Alfred W. Miller, *Memoirs of Eminent Sportsmen*, by Frederick Pond, and *The Natural History of Cornish Fishes* (1884), by Jonathan Couch. The collection contains correspondence of G. E. M. Skues, Edward Boies, Louis Bouglé, Theodore Gordon, and Charles Goodspeed, as well as the fishing diaries (1861–87) of Alfred Denison, Gilliat Hatfield (1841–45), and Kienbusch (1954–65) and records of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association (1874–1949). Miscellaneous material includes letters, bookplates, photographs, clippings, fishing club newsletters, and a box of reels and tied flies. For more information on the contents of the collection, see <http://diglib.princeton.edu/ead/getEad?eadid=C0245&kw=>.

One of the great things about fly tying is being able to create or modify flies that you feel will work for you. The idea for this month's fly actually came from a

conversation I had with John Collins at the Pequest Open House this past March. John told me that one of his friends had fished the Ken Lockwood Gorge using Green Weenies and had out-fished all the other anglers that day.

When fishing in Pennsylvania, a Green Weenie is a staple fly that is a must-have in your fly box. When you're being skunked, just tie on a Green Weenie, and you will always catch a fish or two. If I had my way, the Green Weenie would be Pennsylvania's state fly.

This month's column is about a wet fly that I developed that is based on the Green Weenie. It is called a Winged Wet Weenie, or W3. I prefer "W3."

I was sitting at my vise on a Friday evening and thought some Green Weenies would be a good pattern to tie. I started taking out materials to tie the fly and thought, "Why not a chartreuse Woolly Bugger?" My dog, Jelly Bean, who also is called "Beanie" at times, was lying beside me, and I asked her what she thought. Jelly Bean barked at me, I laughed and said, "All right then," and proceeded to tie up four Woolly Buggers that I renamed Beanie Buggers.

When I fished those flies, I was just amazed: I caught five fish within thirty minutes. But the next day, I was fishing the Ken Lockwood Gorge and noticed that, in the faster currents, the fly was not weighted enough and was sitting just a little below the surface. I did catch two fish, but knew I was missing others due to the fly not being deep enough. So I tied on a wet fly that I wrote about in the August 2009 *Gazette*, the Romaine, and started catching fish. The fly went deeper and allowed me to get to the levels where the fish were holding. So the next night, my quest was to create an all-chartreuse wet fly, and the W3 was born.

This season, I have sworn an oath: "Chartreuse, and nothing but chartreuse, so help me fish." I have been fishing W3s and have managed to catch browns, rainbows, and brookies. The fly has worked in New Jersey and Pennsylvania streams, and I plan to fish it

## *The Wet-Fly Corner*

With Andy Brasko, a Genuine Wet-Fly Fisherman



in the Catskills during Bug Week and on numerous weekend trips to see how it will produce on my favorite stream, the Willowemoc.

All the fish taken on W3s have simply smashed the fly, as is often the case with the wet flies I fish. The takes have been violent, and the fish has ranged in size from a four-inch Brownie to a seventeen-inch rainbow. Some of my strikes occurred as soon as the fly hit the water. I have had experiences like this with other flies once in a while, but never as many as I have with this fly in its short existence. I plan to fish this fly the rest of the year and will report back later on my findings.

As you should know by now, the size of the fly I fished was a size 8. I hope you will be inspired to tie it and give it a try.



Photo: Annie Brasko

### **The Winged Wet Weenie (W3)**

Hook: Mustad 3906, size 8

Thread: Chartreuse Danville 6/0, 70 denier

Tag: Gold Mylar tinsel, size 16/18

Tail: Chartreuse paired suck quills (four quill segments wide)

Body: Two strands of Danville chartreuse floss

Ribbing: Two strands of chartreuse Krystal Flash

Hackle: Chartreuse hen saddle

Wing: Chartreuse paired duck quills

Head: One good soaking coat of Griff's Thin, one coat of Griff's Thick, and one coat of Hard as Hull.

### **Tying Notes**

This fly is simple and fun to tie and does not really pose any tying challenges. The materials for this fly were a little difficult to find, but with the help of eBay and a few on-line fly shops abroad, I was able to procure enough materials for a long time to come.

# Mustad Hooks

## “Classic”-to-“Signature” Conversion Guide, Plus Tiemco, Daiichi, and Dai-Riki Equivalents

In 2009, Mustad reworked its line of fly-fishing hooks, converting many of its “Classic” hooks to a new “Signature” line with chemically sharpened points and microbarbs. A Mustad press release at the time stated: “On many of the converted hooks, the changes to wire diameter, length and gap will be unnoticeable, but on some others, yes, you will see the hook is a bit different.”

Many tyers of classic Catskill-style flies (and many other fly tyers, as well) have lamented the change, while others have adapted to it. However you feel about the change, it’s helpful to have in one place a reference that lays out what hook models have changed, along with possible alternatives. The table below combines two tables available from the Mustad Web site. Note that the equivalents are those suggested by Mustad and that “equivalence” does not mean “identity.” Proportions are likely to vary.

### Mustad Hooks

CLASSIC OLD MODEL	SIGNATURE NEW MODEL	NOTES	EQUIVALEN		
			Tiemco	Daiichi	Dai-Riki
3366	3366	Remains as Classic			
3399	S70-3399	Upgraded to Signature	3769, 9300	1550	
3399A	S60-3399A	Upgraded to Signature	3769, 9300	1550	
3665A	L87-3665A	Upgraded to Signature	300	2340	
3906	S80-3906	Upgraded to Signature	3769, 9300	1550	070
3906B	S82-3906B	Upgraded to Signature	3761, 3762	1560	060
7957	R70-7957	Upgraded to Signature	3769	1530	305
9575	DISCONTINUE	DISCONTINUED			
9671	R73-9671	Upgraded to Signature	5262	1720	730
9672	R74-9672	Upgraded to Signature	5263, 765SP	2220	710
9674	R75S-9674	Upgraded to Signature	9394, 9395	1750	
9674A	9674A	Special Order Only			
33900	DISCONTINUE	DISCONTINUED			
33903	33903	Remains as Classic			
36717	36717NPBR	Upgraded to premium needle			
36890	36890	Will upgrade to Signature ASAP	7999	2441	899
37160	37160	Remains as Classic			

37187	37187	Remains as Classic			
79580	R75-79580	Upgraded to Signature	9394, 9395	2220	700
80525BL	80525BL	Remains as Classic			
94720	R79-94720	Upgraded to Signature			
94831	R43-94831	Upgraded to Signature	5212	1280	280
94833	R30-94833	Upgraded to Signature			
94840	R50-94840	Upgraded to Signature	100, 5210	1170	320
94842	R50U-94842	Upgraded to Signature		1330	
94845	R50X-94845	Upgraded to Signature	100BL, 100SP-BL	1190	
94859	DISCONTINUE	DISCONTINUED			

#### CHANGES TO CURRENT SIGNATURE HOOK RANGE

C51S BLN	DISCONTINUED
R48	DISCONTINUED
R52S	DISCONTINUED
R72	DISCONTINUED

Source: <http://www.mustad.no/catalog/products.php?id=10>



## Asked and Answered

### An Occasional Feature, with Al Himmel

**Q:** Why does a monster trout on the line turn out to be a ten-incher?

**A:** This is a no-brainer. It's a fact well known to every angler that trout can change shape. Although they frequently shrink soon after they're hooked, they always grow considerably larger immediately after they're released.

**Q:** If what used to be *Stenoma* mayflies are no longer *Stenoma* mayflies, will the confusion confuse the trout?

**A:** No. Fish are hard to confuse. It's anglers who get confused all the time.



When you sit down to tie a fly, you take a seat at a very large, very old table. As you go through the magazines, books, and videos—taking and ignoring advice, learning tricks and shortcuts, discerning and taking sides in old debates, then picking and choosing a pattern, a style, eventually even an aesthetic stance—you participate in a long, complicated, and apparently endless conversation over those and many other matters. You join not merely a club, but a guild.

—Paul Schullery, *Cowboy Trout*

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* <<<<<<<**

**☞ 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.



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