

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild



GAZETTE

Volume 11, number 4

August 2008

The Annual Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 16, from noon to 4:00 P.M. at the Elsie and Harry Darbee and Matthew Vinciguerra Memorial Pavilion at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY.

This year, we're going to try something different: Instead of the guild supplying hot dogs and hamburgers and attendees bringing a side dish to pass, we're asking that some attendees bring a main dish—perhaps something like lasagna, baked ziti, or Sloppy Joes and hamburger buns. Use your imagination! Finding a gas grill or building a fire has become a chore, no one wants to give up having fun in order to cook, and it will both save the guild some money and save Judie Smith the innumerable hassles involved in making the way we've done things in the past work. As before, bring your own plates and silverware and your own beverages. Guests are welcome, as long as we can plan for them.

Contact Judie at judiedvsmith@yahoo.com with "Guild Picnic" in the subject line or call her at (607) 498-6024 to tell her what you plan to bring and how many people will accompany you. She can adjust the balance between main dishes and side dishes. Remember: This year, the main dishes are coming *from you*.

As in the past, there will be a casting contest! Also, bring two flies that are alike—one to trade and one for the guild—if possible, in separate film containers.

Tyers Needed

We need volunteers to join Elmer Hopper in tying at the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild table at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum annual Summerfest, Anglers' Market, and Jubilee on Sunday, August 10, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Contact Judie DV Smith at judiedvsmith@yahoo.com or call her at (607) 498-6024. Many thanks to Elmer Hopper and Brian McKee for manning the guild table at the Roscoe Fourth of July Craft Festival. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to do it.

We also need volunteers to tie at the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild table at the International Fly Tying Symposium at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, NJ, on November 22 and 23, 2008. If you're interested, e-mail Joe Ceballos at SAJEFU@aol.com or call him at (646) 358-6279 evenings before 9:00 P.M.

Steep Bank Pool Raffle

Raffle tickets are still available for the framed David Footer print *Steep Bank Pool* at \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00. Mail checks to CFTG Tickets, P.O. Box 663, Roscoe, NY 12776. Enclose a

stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your stubs. The drawing will be held in October.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Calendar of Events

Catskill Fly Fishing Museum Summerfest, Anglers' Market, and Jubilee: Sunday, August 10, 2008, 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY.

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Annual Picnic: Saturday, August 16, 2008, from noon to 4:00 P.M. at the Elsie and Harry Darbee and Matthew Vinciguerra Memorial Pavilion at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Either Thursday, September 18, 2008 or Saturday, September 20, at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, NY. See the September mailing for final date and time.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, October 18, 2008, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M.

[No November monthly meeting because of the Somerset and Danbury shows.]

The Arts of the Angler Show, sponsored by the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum: Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, Danbury, CT.

The International Fly Tying Symposium: Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, NJ.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, December 20, 2008, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, January 17, 2009, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M.

Monthly meeting of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild: Saturday, February 21, 2009, at the Rockland House on Route 206 in Roscoe, NY. The meeting is at 2:00 P.M.

The raffle is for the benefit of the guild's Educational Fund. See page 8 for a photo of the print.

The program at the September monthly meeting will be presented by maestro Ralph Graves, who will offer a demonstration of tying techniques, not our usual program featuring a pattern or two. Time permitting, you will be treated to these and maybe more: a parachute fly, Ralph Graves style; how to split a feather; the Wally Wing (do you know what that is?); and the extended body, Ralph Graves style. It's a seminar in advanced tying that shouldn't be missed. **Note:** There has been some discussion of moving the September meeting from Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon. Check your September mailing for the final date and time.

—Paul Murphy

TU Conservation Day

The Upper Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sponsoring a Conservation Day on Sunday, September 14, at Fortin Park in Oneonta Township. The event will be held from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and is free and open to all.

The purpose of this program is to educate and heighten awareness concerning conservation issues by involving the whole family in demonstrations and activities that focus on the healthy and fun use of the out-of-doors. The out-of-doors theme will feature a number of local groups dedicated to and

participating in such pursuits as biking, bird watching, camping, canoeing, fishing, gardening, hiking, and hunting. These are just few of the over two dozen out-of-doors sports and related activities that will be presented in the all-day event.

The TU chapter members hope the public will become more aware of the many local groups dedicated to and involved in the enjoyment of the out-of-doors and the “green” practices that can contribute to and sustain that enjoyment.

The event will feature hands-on participation and instruction for children and adults, a food concession, and a flea market of items related to out-of-doors activities. There will also be a drawing for an Old Town Loon Kayak, including paddle, and many other prizes. Funds raised will be used to send local children to New York State Conservation Camps and to complete a handicapped fishing access at Fortin Park. For more information, contact Roy Bartoo at (607) 263- 5620 or e-mail bartook@oneonta.edu.

—Dave Plummer

Didymo Control: New Zealand to Ban Felt-Soled Wading Boots

The Minister of Conservation agreed in principle last week with a Fish & Game New Zealand submission to ban the use of felt soled wading boots for freshwater fishing. The ban, yet to be approved and included in the proposed 2008/09 Anglers Notice for Fish and Game Regions, will be effective from 1 October 2008, and applies to freshwater sports fishing anglers in all New Zealand waterways. . . .

The ban applies to the use of felt-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a sole of felted, matted or woven fibrous material when sports fishing.

Felt-soled boots are considered a high risk vector or carrier of microscopic aquatic organisms like didymo. Preventing the spread of didymo is an important aspect of ban, but it is increasingly understood that felt soles are an effective vector for other microscopic pest organisms. While there are procedures for decontaminating felt soled waders, it is acknowledged that these are not practical in many situations. The proposed ban supports three of the objectives of the didymo long term management plan; to slow the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests throughout New Zealand, to protect valued sites and at-risk species, and to maintain the North Island free of didymo for as long as possible. *Report from Voxy.com.nz: For the full report, see www.voxy.co.nz/national/felt-soled-wading-boots-be-banned-1-october/5/1492.*

Looking Back Upstream



Just a Little before My Time

By J. B. Martin

It was your typical mid-July Sunday afternoon. The humidity in the air boiled your skin, rather than frying it like a McNugget. It was the kind of an afternoon when you select iced tea over

coffee and AC over the outdoors.

The usual crowd was gathered in the fly shop. You the know the gang—they can be found in almost any fly shop under such conditions. There’s The Fly Shop Owner, who knows that he should be sitting at the tying desk and manufacturing his livelihood, but has grown weary of his craft, so he elects to procrastinate, with his hands laced together and placed behind his head while the rest of his anatomy reclines back on the chair. Then there is The Seasoned River Guide, who can’t help but make timely trips to the front door, elevating his eyes to the few clouds that give depth to the sky, a habit born out of

many hours on the river, where the swollen mountains can hide a rainstorm until it suddenly comes upon you.

Also in attendance is The Ol' Man, who once could have told you the exact color of the March Brown mayfly that hatches on these local waters, but now has a little bit of trouble remembering what it was that he came into the shop for on any given day.

Finally, there is me—The Kid—who has learned to listen, rather than speak. Oh, not out of respect for his elders, who make up the previous three already mentioned—no that's not the reason, but perhaps that would be a more noble thought. No, I don't speak because "none them ain't gonna listen to me anyways."

Well the conversation is off and running, with stories about fishing, arguments about baseball, who got a new truck, questions about what someone's mother does for a living, and, as always, the loud belly laughs that serve to make the stories about your truck and your mother palatable. And because life always makes a habit of it, just when this laughter reaches its crescendo, it's then that The Customer walks in.

"Got any rust-colored fur dubbing?" asks The Customer.

"I think so," says The Shop Owner with just a bit of a question accenting his voice. "Let's see, here's brown, gold, red, orange, red-orange—now some guys like to use that for "rust." Wait a minute! I found . . . no, that's brown again. Gray, olive, tan, yellow, white — what was that color you're looking for again? Oh yeah! "Rust." Here's more gray, more olive. This looks like fox—gotta order some more of that. Green, black—got black if you need it—light yellow, pink, and more brown. Nope! I don't see any "rust." "What are you trying to tie anyway, if I might ask?"

"*Isonychias*," is the reply.

"Oh, well, then it's not rust you want, it's . . . it's . . . you know . . . Isos are more like a, a . . ."

"Wine color!" shouts out The Ol' Man.

"Yeah! That's it. More of a maroonlike, winey color. Some like to say it's 'claret!'"

"Carrot!! yells The Ol' Man. "That *damn* bug don't look *nothing* like a carrot!"

"*No!*" "Not a carrot! CLARET, I said! C-L-A-R-E-T: CLARET! Not "Carrot!"

"Say, didn't Bergman have a fly pattern in *Trout* that was called a Carrot or something like that?" I (The Kid) reply.

"You know, I think that Bergman has a fly pattern in *Trout* that's called the Carrot," says The River Guide.

"Yes, I think there is one like that—clever of you to remember that pattern Mr. Guide," says The Fly Shop Owner. "Err, Kid did you say something?"

"Yes," I said that I thought that Bergman. . . ."

"You know, that's one I'll have to remember. Thanks, River Guide!" says The Customer.

"*Isonychia* fur dubbing! Here we are! How many you need?" asks The Fly Shop Owner.

"Give me three bags."

"Well, I only got one. Would you like me to order some more for you?"

"Do you normally stock it?"

"Sure! It's a popular dubbing!"

"Well, then, I'll come back when you get some more. I'll take the one now."

"OK then. Here is your change, and thanks a *lot*! See you again."

"Thanks. Hey! Tight lines everybody! Hope this weather breaks!"

"Take care now, and get them Isos tied up!"

"Carrot! Haven't seen one of them flies in years," says The Guide to The Ol' Man.

"Now, Kid, you see what I have been trying to tell you: If you are gonna be worth a damn as a fly fisher, ya gotta learn your patterns—patterns just like this one that fella brought up, the Carrot. Don't suppose you have ever heard of it now, have you?" asks The Ol' Man.

“(Sigh!) Just a little before my time, I guess Ol’ Man.”

“Hey! Shopkeeper! what are you doing?” The Ol’ Man shouts.

“Writing up my order for Iso dubbing, before I forget. Let’s see—that fella wants two bags, so I’ll order four. This stuff moves *quick!*”

J. B. Martin is the proprietor of the Classic Trout Web site and discussion forum, www.classictrout.com, and the moderator of the Catskill Flies message board, www.catskillflies.com/phpBB.



Book Review

The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide

By Tom Rosenbauer. Published by The Lyons Press, 2007; \$24.95 softbound.

“There are two kinds of people,” the saying goes, “those who believe that there are two kinds of people and those who don’t.” The former always claim that people prefer either *Hamlet* or *King Lear*, the Beatles or the Stones. Likewise for Halford or Skues. When it comes to recommending books that will initiate those who don’t fly fish into the sport, for the last few decades, despite the plethora of other publications (including, according to Amazon.com, *Fly Fishing for Dummies*), the choice has seemed to break down to between those who recommend Sheridan Anderson’s *Curtis Creek Manifesto*, originally published in 1978, and those who recommend Tom Rosenbauer’s *Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide*, originally published in 1984.

The two couldn’t be more different. Anderson’s slim volume is literally a cartoon book and is focused on trout fishing. Rosenbauer’s book, which now has been completely revised and updated, with more than 400 color photos and with artsy paintings by Bob White, is a comprehensive guide that attempts to cover all kinds of fly fishing, freshwater and salt, for virtually all species currently pursued by fly-rod anglers. (Well, except for carp, gar, and catfish.) The revision includes pretty much every significant development in fly fishing since the original was published, from gel-spun backing and large-arbor reels to steelheading with strike-indicator nymphing techniques and strip-casting with running line, which Rosenbauer warns “might get you ostracized from the fly-fishing community on West Coast rivers.” There’s even a chapter on the extra gear and gadgets with which we all weigh ourselves down. Funny thing: In the accompanying photos, they all bear the “Orvis” logo.

If the recommendations for such books exhibit such a disparity in their approaches to initiating would-be fly fishers, it may be because there are two kinds of people: those whose cognitive abilities and skills predispose them to seek and absorb lots of information in book form and those who grow impatient with extended expositions of fundamentals. *The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide* certainly serves the former group well. As the Introduction puts it, “This book presents a starting point for the soon-to-be fly fisher and serves the reasonably proficient fly fisher as a reference. (Even quite capable anglers may need a refresher course on some specialized aspects of fly fishing, such as saltwater knots, the how-to-care for waders, or how to fish a dry fly in tricky currents.)” Starting with a chapter titled “What Is Fly Fishing?” it covers all the fundamentals, including the fundamentals of aspects of the sport such as fishing for saltwater species like bonefish, permit, and tuna that are not likely to be the targets of

would-be anglers who need to have explained to them that fly fishing involves casting the line, not the lure.

So it does what it sets out to do. That, of necessity, includes attempting to do things that are very difficult for any book to do. Prominent among these is teaching neophytes how to cast, which the book undertakes to do all the way from the roll cast to the double Spey. Rosenbauer knows this, of course, and recommends taking lessons, if at all possible, either from an instructor or fly-fishing friend, and supplementing any instruction with other resources, such as casting DVDs.

The acknowledgment of this limitation, however, underlines the problems inherent in all such books that aim to initiate would-be fly fishers into the sport. At bottom, there really aren't two kinds of people. Whatever their cognitive makeup, people tend to learn best from other people, and books are a highly mediated way in which that interaction takes place. Interpersonal contact is where motivation is best developed and encouraged (and also, of course, where it can be undermined and discouraged by poor teaching). In many ways, from encouraging young people to take up the sport to bringing conventional-tackle anglers into it, providing encouragement and motivation is the real task here, and books can contribute only so much to realizing it. As the philosopher Lawrence Peter Berra once noted, "If people don't want to come out to the ballpark, you can't stop them." So if someone asks about what it takes to become a fly fisher, by all means recommend *The Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide*. But don't make that your principal response. Whether you're going to a club meeting or just to the stream for a few hours, say, "Come on—I'll show you."

—Bud Bynack


In 1854, a gentleman by the name of Canon William Greenwell was fishing the Tweed River in England and had the most disappointing of days. It was said that Greenwell captured a few

specimens of insect that the trout were particularly enjoying that day and took them to a well-known fly tyer, James Wright. The story goes that Wright tied some flies that represented the specimens that Greenwell had brought him, and when Canon Greenwell went fishing that next day, he creeled a full basket of trout. That evening, a party was held to celebrate Greenwell's accomplishment. At this event, the local schoolmaster christened the fly "Greenwell's Glory."

Researching the history of this fly, I found an excerpt from T. Donald Overfield's book *50 Favourite Wet Flies* that asks whether Wright really did invent a new pattern on that May evening in 1854, or whether he passed on to the canon a fly known on the Tweed for many years, one that was devised by a fellow named Mark Aitken, a pattern that was uncannily like Greenwell's Glory.

Be that as it may, since 1854, the pattern called Greenwell's Glory has changed numerous times. While researching this fly, I found that W. H Lawrie's book *Scottish Trout Flies: An Analysis and Compendium* states that E. M. Tod (that's not a typo) obtained the following pattern from Canon Greenwell himself.

The wings are made from the quill feather of a blackbird tied in a bunch and split—that is, they are divided by the thread used in the tying of the fly itself. A soft hen's hackle of the kind known to fly dressers everywhere as "Cock-y-bonddhu" forms the "legs" of the fly. The body is quite simple, and is formed of the yellow tying silk with which Canon Greenwell always got the late old Jamie Wright, of Sprouston, to dress the fly. The yellow tying silk is waxed with cobblers' wax, which imparts to it a greenish-yellow look. Finally, the body is ribbed over with



The Wet-Fly Corner
With Andy Brasko, a Genuine Wet-Fly Fisherman

thin wire which can easily be unrolled from a piece of ordinary yellow gimp, and failing that, with very thin gold wire, That is the correct dressing of “Greenwell’s Glory.”

In 2004, during Bug Week in the Catskills, a group of friends would gather at the Reynolds House at night to tie flies and to talk about the day’s events and about fly tying and its history. I showed Allan Podell a fly out of Bergman’s *Trout* called the Willow. Allan informed me that this fly looked a lot like Greenwell’s Glory. I asked him if Greenwell’s Glory would be a good fly to fish in the Catskills, and Allan said yes.

That year, in September, I was fishing with Mark Romero on the Beaverkill. I was catching fish on the wet fly called the Captain, but was upset because I had only two flies of this pattern with me that day, and a tree had decided to eat one, while the other was ruined by a bunch of toothy trout. I didn’t want to stop fishing and go home, so I opened my wet-fly box and looked at all the patterns. I decided that Greenwell’s Glory should be given a try. After all, Allan did say it would work in the Catskills.

Well, sure enough, it did. I fished for about two more hours and landed a total of ten trout. Since that September day in 2004, I’ve fished Greenwell’s Glory from the springtime through the fall, and it has never failed to produce fish. This fly has taken trout on the Beaverkill, Willowemoc, Fir Brook, and, in my New Jersey home waters, in the Ken Lockwood Gorge, on the Peaquest River, and on Big Flat Brook, as well as in Benton, Pennsylvania, on Fishing Creek. I’ve have been fishing the fly and catching trout with it in size 6 and 8—did you expect anything different from me? I understand why Greenwell was in his glory with this fly. I hope you try it, because it is really simple and fun to tie. The pattern listed below was taken from Ray Bergman’s *Trout*, Plate 4.

Greenwell’s Glory



Photo: Annie Brasko

Hook: Mustad 3906, size 6 or 8 (For show flies, I prefer to use a Mustad 3399, size 6)

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

Tag: Gold Mylar tinsel, size 16/18

Body: Two strands of light olive Danville floss, tied in at the back and wrapped forward together at the same time.

Ribbing: Five turns of gold Mylar tinsel, size 16/18

Beard/False hackle: Brown schlappen (I prefer to use a fiery brown color)

Wing: Paired duck quills. In *Trout*, the wing called for is “slate.” This means natural duck quill.

This is one pattern where I will not use goose, which is a little too dark for my liking.

Head cement: For fishing flies, one good soaking coat of Griff’s Thin, followed by two coats of Griff’s Thick. If this will be a show fly, then add one coat of black ProLaq.

Monthly Fly Swap Open to Everyone

By Allan Podell

There are two reasons for you to participate in the monthly fly swap at Catskill Fly Tyers Guild meetings. 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 and your own name. Attach the tags to the flies and place the tagged fly 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.

☞ 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.

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* <<<<<<



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.



Steep Bank Pool, by David Footer