



Next Meeting: SAT., 3/13th 1:00 pm

Tye along as Bill Leuszler demonstrates the use of goose body feathers for winging sulphur duns.

Bring: - Size 16 dry fly hooks

- Orange 6/0 or 8/0 thread
- Cream hackle and tailing material
- Dubbing to match your local hatch

Bill will provide the goose feathers for this program. He will also lead a discussion about the use of common materials in traditional Catskill patterns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANGLERS REUNION DINNER

The 3rd Annual Anglers Reunion Dinner will be held March 31st at the Rockland House. Dinner is \$15.00 plus tip. Please call Joe Roseo, Rockland House, (607)498-4240 to make reservations. Again this year, Guild members have provided a dinner favor and a little entertainment. We will keep it light. No speeches.

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A. Podell, Editor Judie D. Vinciguerra, Ass't. Editor
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The Roscoe/Rockland Chamber of Commerce is pleased to sponsor a TROUT TOWN U.S.A. - FLY FISHERMAN'S WEEKEND and you are cordially invited to attend all or any of these scheduled events:

Sat. April 10 - "TWO HEADED TROUT" dinner, an annual celebration of the opening of the new trout season. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm at the Rockland House, Roscoe, NY. Dinner costs \$35 and includes a ticket for the pancake breakfast. For information or tickets call Mr. Tim McCausland (607)498-5204 or (800)883-0059.

Sun. April 11 - All you can eat PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:00 am - 10:00 am at the Rockland Fire Co., Roscoe, NY.

Sun. April 11 - FLY FISHERMAN'S FLEA MARKET. On hand will be collectible used and antique bamboo rods, reels, books, paintings & prints, flytying tools & materials and much, much, much more. Professional flytyers and casting experts will demonstrate their skills and be available to answer questions. Free admission and door prize. At the Rockland House. Doors open at 9:00 am. This is TROUT TOWN U.S.A. Bring your gear, admire the scenery and enjoy the best trout fishing in the eastern U.S.

Tables at the Flea Market are \$25 each. For more information about reserving a table or about this event contact Bob Rumpf (607)467-5478 or Eddie Eckel at (607)498-4639.

LETTERS (lots of them) to the EDITOR:

DEAR EDITOR,

The comments at the Dec. meeting indicated there is some latitude in defining the Catskill Dry Fly. There was reference to a book, I think by Tom Mason (Ed's note: wasn't it Tom Mason citing Schmookler & Sims Vol. 2?) citing the 3 eye length space behind the eye. Normally I think of a relatively small undefined space but visually noticeable. Several times, including Sat., I've heard it was to accommodate the Turle know, a knot now largely forgotten.

My feeling is we need to take some more time to refine a tighter definition but meanwhile we should challenge the validity of an

extreme example being set down as "The Catskill Fly".
from: Paul Murphy

DEAR FELLOW FLY TYER/FISHERMAN,

I am asking for help from anyone that knows how fly-tying was used in physical therapy during World War II or thereafter. I am also appealing to the Medical Community for any information about fly-tying being used as a form of physical therapy. Also if there were any Veterans out there that were helped by fly-tying during their recovery period I would be most interested in learning about your experiences.

For over a year I have been trying to find information on this topic and have had very little success. What I have learned is that E. Hille Company made fly-tying kits for the government during World War II for use in Veterans Hospitals. If anyone knows what the contents of these kits were or actually may have one I would be most interested in talking to you, I wrote to E. Hille and have not received a response.

My goal is to develop fly-tying programs for people recovering from strokes and landmine injuries

Thanks in advance for all your help. I may be contacted at the address or phone number below.

Sincerely,
Paul J. Hoyt
43-60 Douglaston Pkwy., Apt. 102
Douglaston, NY 11363
(718)631-4784

DEAR EDITOR,

It's the style that determines what you call the fly... not who tied it. (After the originator, of course!)

I would assume though that an old traditional Catskill fly pattern would, by definition, be a Catskill style fly. A Quill Gordon being a traditional Catskill fly. Now, if any segment of the pattern was changed it would not be a Quill Gordon anymore but simply any of the numerous quill patterns. I mean a Delaware Adams is not the same pattern as an Adams and that fact is reflected in its name. Although the Delaware Adams could be considered a Catskill pattern (originated by Walt Dette I believe) the Adams certainly is not.

TGF had a spring outing a few years ago up to the Connecticut Lakes region of New Hampshire and a NH game warden came and talked to the group one evening. One of the things he said was that, "*No artificial materials could be used on flies up here...only natural materials*". Well didn't someone pipe up with..."*What about Mylar? It's plastic.*"

I mean ALL the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ears we buy and probably 90% of the ones we make are made with Mylar. Does this mean we cannot use them there? The next day the game warden came back and said that seeing as Mylar was so much in use, so damn popular, and has really overtaken metallic tinsel that yes, it could be used even though it isn't natural. Just an interesting little story. from: Red Quill

For their support, the Guild wants to thank

Joe Roseo & Family
Proprietors of: The

Rockland House

Motel
Lounge
& Fine Dining

P.O. Box 220, Rockland Road, Roscoe, NY 12776
607-498-4240

DEAR EDITOR,

I got the newsletter today and agree with your article. I really think the main reason to set the record straight is so that the inexperienced tiers that read such misinformation don't actually accept it as fact, simply because it was in print and they don't know any better. The one thing traditional style doesn't need if it is to survive, is a change in the shiboloth of our definition of what the Catskill style of tying is. Until a definition of this style is established, we will identify Catskill patterns in either of the two ways we treat individuals of other ethnic origins. To one person they may all look the same, but to someone else they can't tell you why or what it is about it, but "I know one when I see it".

Here's a rhetorical question for you in regards to what constitutes a "Catskill" fly. What is the difference between a Pocono fly and a Catskill fly? Fishing in both regions developed almost simultaneously, and in many cases, by the same people. Is there a difference in the flies used in the Catskills and the Poconos? To a great extent I think that the patterns developed for one place were used interchangeably between the two. I think it would be a mistake to use geographic boundaries to define the style of any Catskill fly. Specific, individual patterns unique to one area maybe, but even so, patterns and style are two different things.

I don't know whose magic wand is going to finally decide the definition of style that we seek, but I think that it will, by necessity, become relative to time or generalized dates as much as anything else. Did the changes in the genetics and availability of materials commonly accepted and used affect style? Did the style remain the same when snelled hooks became obsolete or the genetics of rooster necks changed, or when mylar was made available instead of or along with metallic tinsel? How about when mandarin flank feathers were the only thing available or legally used? If you use Micro-fibetts for tailing, is that acceptable Catskill style?

Just my thoughts. Gary

**REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE !!**

Dear Editor,

Thanks very much for the copy of Catskill Fly News. Great little article that makes your point about the amount of bare shank behind the eye as an "open and shut" case. It certainly served to correct my impression - I would otherwise simply have accepted Mr. Martin's opinion. Ah, well, even the experts aren't infallible.

I did think the article was a bit sharp, but that kind of controversy is kind of neat in a newsletter. I suppose in a letter to the magazine you could make the tone a little more neutral to avoid a smart-aleck comment from the editor!

I have to admit that I don't generally leave any significant space on the heads of my "Catskill" style flies, although I do try to make the heads pretty small. I don't use the Turle know so functionally I doubt there's much difference--the flies seem to float all right and they certainly catch fish, despite the clumsiness of the driver. But if I'm ever tying Flick red quills for someone else, I now know the correct proportions. Thanks very much for that.

Speaking of proportions, has anyone in your group ever looked into the typical length/gape ratios for hooks used in classic Catskill dry-fly patterns? Is there a consistency in this regard? And what hooks available today would most closely match the hooks that were used most often by Mr. Steenrod, Mr. Flick, et alia?

Regards: Jeff Serena

(This is the letter I misplaced and tried to paraphrase in the last issue. Found it and here it is - Ed.)

DEAR EDITOR,

By limiting the choices of flies to be tied at the shows, and as important as it is to preserve the past, it is denying the most important legacy we inherited from the reknowned Catskill tyers -- their philosophy.

In studying the great tyers, I notice one common trait they all possessed -- all of them without exception, were not traditional tyers. They were the rebels and innovators of their time -- they questioned the past. They developed styles and techniques that were unique. Many of them would and could tie anything.

By denying the display of salmon flies, you are doing a great disservice to many of the tyers that represent the Catskill area. Jennings and the Darbees, just to name a few, tied salmon flies that were second to none.

Lee Wulff, who is embraced by the Catskill fly fishermen, possessed the genius that represents the Catskill attitude. He was dynamic, influencing a broad spectrum -- flies, methods, conservation, and equipment. He could quite possibly be the most significant fly fisherman of our lifetime. Lee tied flies for every conceivable situation of fly fishing -- fresh water and salt water. Just a reminder, he even constructed flies out of plastic. It goes without saying, that Lee Wulff was never a traditional fly

tyer or fisherman. If he had been, we probably never would have heard of him.

Preserve the past, remember where we came from, but don't loose the vision! This is what I believe it means to be a Catskill tyer.

Sincerely, Harold Williams

EDITORIAL

A Review of Material Swap Meeting

This may offend a few. Maybe it will give others food for thought. My hope is that these comments will help improve any 'material swaps' held by the Guild members in the future.

Visually it looked as if we had the largest participation(# of people) and volume of materials this year. That's the good news. However, one thing about the swap troubled me and it should be discussed because it may have troubled others as well.

While participants with materials to swap were busy setting up, other participants that had nothing to swap were scouring the tables and *BUYING* the 'pick of the litter'. Although we had set a 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm set-up time to avoid this situation, that rule was not enforced. The end result was that the cash payers had the advantages of both opportunity(time) and means (money) to put swappers at a disadvantage and effectively undermine the swap concept. Maybe we should just have a sale.

Second, maybe we should have this 'swap' in conjunction with the 'flea market' scheduled in April. There might be more swappers, more buyers for those wishing to swap & sell, and better weather. Who knows, afterward some of us might be able to get in some fishing instead of having a snowball fight! Just some thoughts IMHO. What's yours? Ed.

A Few Tidbits From 60 YEARS AGO:

As printed in the Liberty Register

1/12/39 - Irving Berlin buys Fyke property in Lew Beach.

2/9/39 - Roscoe and Rockland Cemetery Association sold to New York State rights of way along Beaverkill for fishing purposes a 60 foot strip on west bank of stream for \$300.

3/9/39 - RUBE CROSS AT MACY'S: RUEBEN CROSS, NOTED SULLIVAN COUNTY FISHERMAN AND FLY TYER, WILL DEMONSTRATE THE LATTER ART AT THE MACY'S STORE IN NEW YORK TODAY, TOMORROW AND SATURDAY. THIS WILL BE HIS 3rd CONSECUTIVE YEAR AT MACY'S.

NEVERSINK NOTES: by Bill Leuszler

There has been meaningful debate at our last few Guild meetings on what constitutes a "Catskill Fly". Our beloved Ralph Graves, overseeing the fly swap, has been a protagonist, setting down the gauntlet. With this demand noted I saw fit to make use of Austin Francis' book CATSKILL RIVERS as a resource. In his book, under the heading Fly Tier, Francis lists a significant number of what would seem to be Catskill patterns. Some are directly attributed to a tier, others are simply noted.

Theodore Gordon: Orange Grannom, Dark Grannom, Gold Bodied spinner, Quill Gordon and Bumble-puppy

Roy Steenrod: Hendrickson

Rube Cross: Cross Special, Blue Honey Dun

Edward Hewitt: Hard Back nymph, Brown Bivisible, Neversink Skater

William Chandler: Light Cahill (his specific version)

Walt Dette: Corey Ford, Coffin Fly

Harry Darbee: H.A. Darbee Mid Summer Special, Rat Faced McDougall, Shad Fly and Spate Fly

Art Flick: Red Quill, Dun Variant, Grey Fox Variant, Black Nosed Dace, and Hendrickson nymph

Ray Smith: Red Fox and Brown Turkey

Other patterns noted in this section of the book and not attributed specifically to a tier are: Conover, Davidson Special, Spent Wing Woodruff, Neversink, Bradley Special, Katterman, Campbell's Fancy, Murray's Favorite, Christian Special, Petrie's Green Egg Sac, Quack Special and Pink Lady.

This list includes 36 patterns. I am sure that with a little effort many more could be listed using readily available resources.

Yet what truly interests me is not detailing another pattern, one more obscure than another, but fishing the ones readily accepted and seeing how they do. That's what will keep some of these patterns alive. I know how to tie a Bradley Special. That's pretty easy. But can I fish with it? And what are the fish taking it for?

I am looking forward this year to giving a couple of old time Catskill patterns a try on the Neversink to see how they do. Anybody for a Campbell's Fancy?

My fishing notes record the first sight of the Sulphur hatch. Fire Tower Pool: 5/29/94, 5/29/95, 5/24/96.

Bridgeville: 5/29/97, 5/14/98. I still am astounded as to the regularity of a specific hatch.

PROPORTION ARTICLE - FOLLOW-UP

Several people wrote letters and I had a few telephone conversations in response to this article. Additionally, I spoke to the senior editor of FR & R when I was at the Somerset show. Based on his comment I'm not optimistic that the letter I wrote to the magazine will be published. However, that letter was passed on to Darrel Martin. He telephoned me and we had a cordial and interesting conversation. He led me to believe that he will re-visit this topic soon and correct the information he authored.

See 'Letters' and other articles elsewhere in this issue. Finally, the most revealing truth behind the question of the amount of bare neck, better than anything written or said, is to view these flies and judge for yourself. They are not mythical. They are real and they can be seen at the CFFC & Museum where they are exhibited.

CLASSIFIEDS

(Here members may list items for sale, trade or identify items that they're looking for. The 'Classifieds' is a FREE service for members..... That's right - FREE. As in: no cost, no money, no charge, zilch, nada, nothing, zero. Get the idea?)

Just one catch - keep your listing to 5 lines or less.

Send information you want listed here to Allan.Podell)

* One(1) pair of nice matched Coot wings. Contact: Ralph Graves, P.O. Box 66, Roscoe, NY 12776.

* Old time "flyrod lures". Contact Ralph Muma (or Mumma?)

* Transkei "Fishing Flies" stamps. Complete 5 year set (1980 - 1984) of 25 different colorful and detailed stamps. Perfect for framing or other uses. Becoming scarce. Contact: A. Podell, 100 Glen Ave., Elmira, NY 14905, (607)734-6257 or email <apodell@stny.Lrun.com>

The Catskill Fly Tyers Guild
Will Be Participating At the

TGF SHOW

Sat., March 20th

Sheraton Crossroads - Mahwah, NJ

VISIT OUR TABLE

MORE LETTERS:

This letter appeared in *Fly Fish America*, Sept., 1998. It is printed here at the request of the author. The response, from the Editor of *Fly Fish America*, is also printed out of fairness to that magazine.

DEAR EDITOR (of *Fly Fish America*),

I WAS SADDENED TO SEE THE COVER of the July/August issue of *Fly Fish America* and to learn of your magazine's involvement in the World Youth Fly Fishing Championship in Wales. While I too share the belief that if fly fishing is to have a future our values must be passed on, I fear that you and your misguided sponsors have a different set of values. You favor making fly fishing a team sport available to a select few where the end result is that someone must win and someone must lose. I believe that fly fishing is not a competitive team sport and everyone who wants to and does so is a winner.

I cannot believe that the future of fly fishing is being well served by sending seven kids to Wales to compete for a title that is meaningless to anyone but themselves. What about the thousands of kids who might benefit from having the opportunity to fly fish but cannot afford the equipment or instruction necessary even to give it a try? Can you not imagine that among these same kids are future scientists, conservationists and politicians who will continue our fight for clean water and healthy fish stocks?

You are mistaken if you believe that you must change fly fishing in order to save it. I suggest, therefore, that instead of sending seven kids to Wales next year you make arrangements with an organization like the Catskill Fly Fishing Center to send 500 kids to its Environmental Camp. Introduce enough kids to the fly fishing arts, the aquatic ecosystem and the beauty of nature, and the future fly fishing will be secure. Floyd Franke

This is the response from *Fly Fish America*:

Our decision to support Team USA did not involve any perception that fly fishing needs to be "changed" or "saved". We firmly believe, however, that the majority of our fisheries are in need of both; that public awareness of and opposition to those forces which jeopardize the vitality of our fisheries is the best way to address the problem; and that the people who will have the greatest opportunity to effect necessary changes in governmental thinking in the future are our younger readers. We have over 60,000 print readers between the ages of 18 and 34, and perhaps 100,000 more on the Internet. They are the future of our sport, but more importantly, they are the future of our fisheries.

Many young people are attracted by the challenge of competition, and if competitive fly fishing gets and keeps their interest in the sport, then so be it. In fact, I may sit here today due in part to a fly fishing "competition" I witnessed as a teenager - Ted Williams (the outfielder) and another guy engaged in a casting competition at the Boston Sportsman's Show 35 years ago. My father and I were so impressed that we

bought our first fly rods about five minutes later - and we've been fly fishing together ever since!

Fly Fish America will help promote any legitimate effort to involve kids in our sport. If you or the Catskill Fly Fishing Center organize an initiative to send 500 kids to its Environmental/Fishing Camp, we'll be there helping to make it a reality. Editor of *Fly Fish America*

(This last sentence is an interesting offer, or perhaps a challenge, in response to the 'suggestion' made by Floyd. A.P.)

If you
had something
important and/or interesting to say
it could have been printed here

to be shared by
over 165 Guild members
as well as others
who receive or see this
newsletter.

Contribute an article.
Let's hear your opinion.

Write us a letter.
Share your experience & knowledge.

No one benefits when everyone keeps silent !

