



# MEETING NOTICE

**Our next meeting will be  
Sept. 17th at 7:00 pm at  
the Ed. Bldg. of the  
Catskill Fly Fishing  
Center in Liv. Manor.**

The agenda will include a demonstration by Floyd Franke of the Bottle Brush Nymph. Bring your tying equipment and the following if you have them. Materials will be provided if you do not.

- \*pheasant tail feather
- \*speckled hen back or partridge body feathers
- \*brown thread
- \*turkey tail feather
- \*magic dub
- \*natural squirrel dubbing
- \*upeye sedge hook, size 10 or 12.

Come and enjoy our first get together after the summer.

Remember, there's a fly swap!

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**OCTOBER MEETING ON THE 15th.**

Art Dewitt will do a presentation.

## HELP WANTED.

Demonstrators needed for our 'Guilds table at the FEDERATION YOUTH PROGRAM that takes place on Sat., Sept. 19th. This is an instructional program and a real chance to get a child's interest going in fly tying & fly fishing. If you're willing to lend a hand please contact Bill Leuszler at (914)-733-6759.

## Important Information

The Elsie & Harry Darbee and Matthew Vinciguerra Memorial Pavilion is now complete with a sign done by Joan & Art Stoliar. This pavilion is available at this time without tables. Contact Sue Krupp at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center at 914-439-4810.

There is also a Pavilion Pin available at the CFFC giftshop with proceeds going to a pavilion fund for further improvements and maintenance.

Thanks. Judie DV

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## CATSKILL ANGLING HISTORY:

125 Years Ago: The first fishing club, "Salmo Fontinalis", was formed on the popular Beaverkill river as a private fishery.

80 Years Ago: In 1918, the angling giant, the well known Edward R. Hewitt formed the creation of the fisherman's dream. Hewitt bought over twenty seven hundred acres of just beautiful land complete with four miles of the Neversink River below the Halls Mills Bridge. Hewitt built his own fish laboratory, raised his own trout, created fishing items such as reels, fly patterns, and was just about a 'jack of all trades' when it came to his beloved hobby of fishing. Hewitt was an inventor of many fishing ideas, a multi-talented sort of individual who was a perfectionist in regards to his theories and designs. He would have to be considered one of the "Founding Four" in the "Catskill Charm Circle" of important individuals. Hewitt's writings on topics of fish culture and stream improvement methods are still used to this day. I believe the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation use many of Mr. Hewitt's documented results on these topics mentioned. This property became known to all as the "Big Bend Club" of the Neversink River in later years.

75 Years Ago: Pinky Gillum came out with his rod designs in 1923; talk about beautiful rods, they don't come much better. Pinky sold everything he made. Harry Darbee, I believe, was his agent sort of. Harry, I assume, would have had no trouble in selling any of Gillum's rods. Harry and Elsie Darbee (cont. pg 2)

(Catskill Angling History, cont.)

owned and fished them. This would be a fine tribute to any rod builder of angling note.

The above: By Dave Catizone

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**45 Years Ago:** The year 1953 marked the end of the O&W Railroad in this area. Over eighty years of transportation for the area was to be no more. Countless numbers of sporting fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts as well as locals used this means of transportation. Trout were brought up from New York City in railroad cars and stocked in our streams. Roscoe will soon have a replica of a trout car display.

**20 Years Ago:** The Catskill Fly Fishing Museum was started in 1978. It was founded in 1981 as the "Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum", the dream of Elsie Darbee. She was the first President. The museum houses many artifacts of the early Catskill Fishing Scene as well as memorabilia associated with its people.

The Above: By Judie DV

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### EDITORIAL & MORE HELP WANTED

Guild members: Hopefully you read this little newsletter and find that the articles and subjects are informative and interesting. However, to keep it going your help is needed. Send me something I can use as an article. Send in a letter complaining of something you've read in these pages and disagree with; Send a picture (or copy of one) with a note on the back telling what the picture is about; Send a letter about something you've seen while astream, good or bad; Send a review of an article or book you've read; Have you any material(s), tools, tying equipment or tackle you'd like to swap? List it in the Swap Sheet Column which starts in this issue; How about sending in a funny but clean joke or cartoon you've heard or seen? Whatever it may be, show you give a da\_n and send in something that can be used. Every one of us can do a little bit that will help keep this newsletter going. Send your article, comment, idea, whatever it is to:

Allan Podell

100 Glen Ave., Elmira, NY 14905

(607)734-6257

e-mail: apodell@stny.Lrun.com

Thanks in advance.

### CATSKILL FLIES: By Allan Podell

In this issue, and hopefully in issues to come, this column will describe a 'traditional' Catskill fly. The definition of 'traditional' that will be used will be: a fly that, by documented accounts, originated in the Catskills and was first used on Catskill waters. It may be a dry fly, wet fly, streamer or nymph. Each fly will be described with a brief history, the original recipe and alternative recipe(s) as it is tied today. **I invite any reader of this newsletter to submit constructive criticism, in a reasonable manner, to the descriptions offered in this column. I especially invite Guild members to send me a historical review of their favorite 'traditional' fly for this column.** Include a brief history of the fly, its original recipe and the recipe as it's generally tied today.

#### The Light Hendrickson(D):

Originated by Roy Steenrod of Liberty, NY in 1916 to represent the Ephemerella Subvaria (the Invaria according to Preston Jennings) which usually hatches in mid-May(Catskills). Steenrod named the fly after his friend, A.E. Hendrickson.

According to these 4 authors the original recipe was:

	<u>P. Jennings</u>	<u>A. Flick</u>
Wings:	wood duck	same
Tail:	wood duck	dun hackle
Body:	fawn red fox belly	urine stained red fox vixen
Hackle:	rusty dun	nat. blue dun
Thread:	yellow	not stated
Hook:	#10 Hardy	#12
	<u>R. Bergman</u>	<u>G.L. Herter</u>
Wings:	same	same
Tail:	wood duck	gold pheasant crest
Body:	cream fur	fawn red fox belly
Hackle:	light gray	pale watery gray
Thread:	not stated	not stated
Hook:	#10-16	not stated

You can see that there was some disagreement about Steenrod's original dressing. Today, the recipe most widely used is most like that of A. Flick's. New synthetics and dyeing processes have given us new dubbings and blends so let's just say that a dubbing material that's cream/tan with a pink cast is used for the body. Yellow thread is generally used and the hook is a #10 or #12. Although using imitation wood duck for wings is acceptable, the natural is preferred.

If the above differs from your understanding of this fly's pedigree or current recipe, let me hear from you. More information about this column is on page 6.

## NOT FISHING - By Al Himmel

The flight to Fort Lauderdale was unbearable, but the anticipation of fishing for ~~must~~ ~~er~~ ~~Walloo~~ with my ~~so~~ Brad sustained me. Brad's ~~nei~~ ~~ghbor,~~ ~~oJ~~ ~~hn~~ had ~~bee~~ catching such fish about five miles out from Punta Gorda inlet, and they had planned a trip to let me in on the magical moments. After the usual family greetings, Brad and I went next door to finalize the plans for the next day's trip. Four AM was the scheduled departure time. A far cry from my usual leisurely trout fishing ventures. Oh well one must pay his dues.

The next morning, serious work began. We loaded all the gear into John's maxi-van and headed for the dock where a friend of John allowed him to moor his boat for a mere two hundred and fifty dollars per month. Of course we had to drop off a bottle of scotch so his good fortune could continue. The serious work resumed as the gear was now transferred through the back yard to the boat. Two coolers, nine big rods and reels, two downriggers, and assorted clothing made fishing more like work than fun. As we made our way into the intercoastal we stopped at a seaborne bait shop, where we were fortunate enough to purchase the last of the bait man's six goggle eyes for twenty dollars. The usual price is fifty dollars a dozen. Yes, I said fifty. John, being an airline pilot, was not fazed by the price so off we went at ten miles an hour in the no wake intercoastal waterway. The manatee, an endangered species, at least stands a chance at those speeds.

As we approached a bridge, John had to call ahead to have the bridge raised. Imagine what that costs the tax payers? It did give me a chance to study the electronic gear on board. Radio, depth finder, Loran, and an electric live well made for an impressive display of piscatorial affluence. My fly rod collection seems like cheap goods by comparison. The race to our fishing destination can only be described as gut jarring, as three foot waves created a never ending bronco ride. My thoughts turned to the concept of relevance.

Finally the rigging. Five rods on down riggers can take hours to assemble. The kite became airborne with difficulty, and John had to hang precariously over the side in order to avoid the side rings. Brad played pilot while I sat uselessly aside so as not to get in the way. Then the troll. Five hours of almost nothing. One small fish of dubious origin hooked himself and I was

allowed to reel him in. Bah humbug! Give me a trout stream any day.

*In appreciation of our Catskill streams.*

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## INFORMATION FROM ABROAD!

In April of this year the Guild heard from Ted Patlen that a large quantity of flies was stolen from Oliver Edwards at the Int'l. Fly Tyers Show. Although we could not replace what Oliver lost, Guild members individually and collectively donated flies that were sent to Ted and then forwarded to him as a token of our concern and kinship. Here is Oliver's letter that Ted got in response and passed on to us.

30th June '98

*Dear Ted,*

*You must by now be thinking that I'm a real ignorant sod!! Truth is my letter writing has had to take a real back seat, simply through pressure of work - and I must be a lucky so and so to be able to say that, - in fly fishing! However, from Jan. to about the start of summer I sometimes don't know whether I'm on my head or my arse. Orvis have been using my services, doing streamside courses - now my 3rd year, so that takes up many of my weekends - but the money is handy. Then the merry-goround starts again with tying classes in Sept through to late spring. I shouldn't complain.*

*So ~~the~~ what a completand wonderfull surprise - I was really touched by the gift from yourself, and of course the Cats kill guys. ~~this b~~ loody awful dog eat dog world receiving such a nice ~~gaste~~ is really heart warming and proof positive that fly fishers are the "good guys". - I was touched!*

*My thanks and appreciation to John Collins, Ed Humsjo, Ken Zadoyko, John Drew, Sam Scafidi, Doc Fried, Art Wilson, Dick Smith, my old mate Ralph Graves & Dave (The Hustle) Brandt from the Catskill F.T. Guild. To Allan Podell for ~~hbe~~ autiful boxed ~~bo~~ lection and of course to you Ted, an especial ~~bit~~hanks.*

*Please pass on this letter to the Catskill F.T. Guild - I certainly wish for all those guys to know how I felt at receiving their generosity & time.*

*See you in November.*

*Best wishes Oliver*

*P.S. It's perfectly OK to start a letter with Dear. The time to worry is when it starts with ... My Dearest! O*

Ted Patlen from Oliver Edwards

While we won't see Oliver in November because the Int'l Fly Tyers Show has been cancelled, we look forward to seeing him tie his interesting and wonderfully functional flies at the Sommerset Show. (AP)

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## MEMORIES SHARED WITH AN OLD FRIEND:

By Irwin Small to Bob Albrecht (1997)

*Our friendship goes back a long, long ways  
All the way back to our younger days.  
And that's a ways as all can see  
For two "Old Farts" like you and me.*

*We moved into your Somerset neighborhood  
From up in Canada - "Toronto the Good".  
It was not too long before we met  
And our friendships developed in Somerset.*

*Our friendship flourished as time went by  
You taught me how to cast a fly.  
Learning took time, you coached me well  
Could I catch a trout? Only time would tell.  
My early failures made me blue  
Some said I looked like "Lash LaRue".*

*To lay line out smooth was my objective  
A drag-free float - from the trout's perspective.  
The sports an art and not easy to learn  
So early failures should not concern.  
For over time the skill will come  
I could now be called a "Trout Bum".*

*Many, many a trip we took  
To a stream in Jersey - The Big Flatbrook.  
The stream was preserved in it's natural state  
Though many had planned a different fate.  
Each year it was carefully stocked with trout  
And flyfishers would try to get them out.*

*Mostly we'd release our fish  
But some we fried for a breakfast dish.  
We'd rest mid-day and check our flies  
Then head back out for the evening rise.*

*Each trip we'd drop in to see Buck Short  
He'd give us a current stream report.  
We'd shoot the breeze and buy some flies  
He had some very clever ties.  
But the "Flatbrook Bastard" was his creation  
And, on many days, it was our salvation.  
Trout rose quickly from their lie  
When a Flatbrook Bastard drifted by.*

*Harry Edel watched me once  
As a rainbow on my fly did pounce.  
I struck so hard, to Harry's glee  
My "Bastard" landed in a tree.  
From that day on - he meant no harm  
His name for me was always "Strong-arm".*

*Very often a trip we'd make  
To fish the streams of New York State.  
We'd pass through Roscoe without a fuss*

*Knowing that Harry and Elsie would welcome us.*

*Up the hill and at the top  
We turned in to Harry Darbee's shop.  
So many of Darbees' friends were there  
It was sometimes hard to find a chair.*

*Then they'd clear out and later on  
We'd drink scotch and talk 'til nearly dawn.  
Elsie would go to bed and leave us to it  
We'd talk for hours and Elsie knew it.  
Into the night the stories would flow  
There was not that much Harry didn't know.  
What "fellowship" a bottle buys!!!  
We'd sleep on through the morning rise.*

*Harry was really quite a card  
We camped right there in his yard.  
He was also your very dear friend  
You cared for him right to the end.  
He fought so hard for conservation  
In Heaven he had a reservation.*

*Elsie then Harry found their final rest  
In the countryside that they loved best.  
They left us early, it's such a shame  
A trip up there now is not quite the same.  
Now Harry and Elsie cast their flies  
In Catskill Rivers in the skies.*

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*The commute to New York was never fun  
We both were happy when that was done.  
The train trip was daily and very far  
In equipment some called a cattle car.*

*Retired now, we have the time to play  
And we can flyfish every day.  
We have the time, it's kind of funny  
Nothing is in short supply but money.*

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*For many years we've collected stuff  
It seems we'll never have enough.  
You got an earlier start with your collection  
The focus of mine defies detection.*

*We pile it here and store it there  
Causing our wives much despair.  
But sometime they'll know it was all worthwhile  
When dollars are flowing from each pile.*

\*\*\*\*

Bob - Thank you for sharing this with us.  
Irwin - This is a fantastic assembly of warm, sincere  
and fond remembrances put into poetic form.  
We should all be so lucky. Thank you. (AP)

## NOTES FROM THE NEVERSINK - BOOKS

REVIEWED: By Bill Leuszler

Over the last 15 years I have had the opportunity to purchase a good number of books on fly fishing and fly tying. At one time I had tried to develop a small side business buying and selling used sporting books. This afforded me the luxury of owning books that I would not have purchased otherwise. Recently I had time to reflect on some of the books that I have owned. Many have come and gone. Others have stayed. In these NOTES I would like to share some of my favorites and some of my disappointments.

Naturally I have special interest in books written about the Neversink. For reasons not entirely clear there seems to be more written about the Neversink than some of the other Catskill rivers. In a recent News, Paul Hoyt noted that rather little has been written on the Esopus. And quite honestly I can't think of all that much written about the Willowemoc.

John Burroughs, Theodore Gordon, Edward Hewitt, Leonard Wright, John Atherton, Ray Bergman, George Labranche and Larry Koller have all written about fishing the Neversink.

Gordon's collection, THE COMPLETE FLY FISHERMAN, edited by John McDonald is an interesting book. Within the wealth of material is a fairly useful description of the conditions of the River around Hasbrouck and Bradley before the dam was put in. He never understood entomology in a formal sense. But his observations of hatches, and his approach to fly selection still has value for those fishing the Neversink in more modern times. The down side of this collection is that it is not all that focused. The book is actually made up of letters and articles that he wrote. The material is not concise. This would be a good book to borrow from a library and to return. It has not been all that useful to me.

George Labranche's book, DRY FLY AND FAST WATER is a book that all of the Guild members should read. If you can purchase this book for less than \$20 get it. It's probably the best book that I have ever read that gives a feeling for what went into the development of American dry fly fishing. I get a much better sense from this book than Gordon's as to how English experiences translated into a truly American approach. Labranche's approach to fly fishing is of

value. The fly selection he used unfortunately was mostly English in origin. His fly, the Pink Lady, remains the exception.

Ray Bergman probably fished on the Neversink far more than is reflected in his writings. His book, TROUT, belongs on the shelf of anybody who has interest in fly fishing. Just the fly plates are worth the price of the book. Right now I think it still can be purchased new in paperback. Most of what he writes about on the Neversink is about the lower section near Oakland Valley.

Edward Hewitt spent a lot of time on the upper Neversink. I have only read two of his books. The books are too pricey for me now and they don't seem to hold information that justifies their price. Of all the books mentioned they are of the strongest interest for collectors.

John Burroughs wrote about fishing the Neversink in SPECKLED TROUT. This is a short work and can be found in his collection, IN THE CATSKILLS. This is a wonderful description of the upper river near Claryville during the late 1800's.

NOTES FROM THE NEVERSINK continues in the next November Newsletter

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### FLY TYING TIPS From Dave Catizone

1. Use white thread, 6/0 - 8/0 when tying tails, body and wings of your fly. You can always tint the thread to a desired color needed during certain applications.
2. Be careful when using a thin head or tying cement near your just completed wings. Use sparingly, as the wing material will soak up large amounts of cement if not careful and thus ruin your wings profile.
3. When creating a tinsel body for your streamers, for smooth, beautiful body results, the procedures are as follows: First, create a smooth thread base of White Tying Thread; Second, start your Tinsel at the forward part of the hook where the wing will be tied in later. Secure Tinsel and proceed to wind the Tinsel slowly, abutting each turn close to the previous turn, towards the tail of the streamer keeping some tension on the Tinsel. Wind to the tail of the streamer. Abutt Tinsel up to tailing and ribbing materials. Pay close attention to this particular area as you want to be sure to leave no gaps; Third, now with (cont. pg 6)

(FLY TYING TIPS, cont)

tension slowly wind Tinsel back over the Tinsel you have just wound towards the original tie in spot. Take your time and abutt each turn with a slight overlap to create a durable double layer of Tinsel that is smooth, creating a fine professional looking streamer body.

4. When tying flies, a general simple rule applies, if a tyer appears to have made a tying error or mistake in a tying sequence, STOP! Un-tie the last step and correct the mistake. DO NOT try to cover the mistake. Take the time to fix anything that does not meet your desired tying standards. Good tying disciplines are paramount to good tying results.

5. Think about PROPORTION while tying your flies. Length of wings, tailing and hackle sizes are critical to the overall appearance of the fly. Take the time to measure. Size all materials to be used based on your related hook sizes chosen for each fly. This maintains the proper fly balance and aesthetic appeal.

6. Periodically check over all of your materials. Look for insect infestation, moisture build up or excess oil or grease on your Rooster Necks. Replace the backing of cardstock if very oily or if very greasy. Store all expensive necks in Zip-Lock bags. It is wise to store all expensive Rooster Necks in a flat position with the feathers straight. Sounds picky, it's not. Feathers will take a set! You may want the longer neck feathers for some application in which the straight natural shape will be a definite plus in fly appearance. Care of materials is essential in fly tying.

More tying tips in upcoming issues.

*Have one or a few tying tips you'd like to share? Well, we'd like to hear about it or them. Help keep this column an ongoing feature. Send tip(s) to me. Look for my address elsewhere in this issue. Allan*

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**CATSKILL FLIES** - More Information: A. Podell

An acquaintance suggested putting a column in the Newsletter that describes the *history of and historical recipe for* 'Traditional Catskill' fly patterns. He also suggested comparing that pattern with the recipe(s) and possible design as it is usually tied today. This seemed like a reasonable request.

The history of any specific fly pattern is often vague for several reasons. First, historical documentation

may not exist and we go on word of mouth. Second, the original pattern may not have received notoriety. Third, a new pattern recipe may vary from a known one by only the slightest difference (angle of wing, shade of material, type of material, etc). Fourth, where the fly was used. Fifth, how well known the person is who designs the fly. I'm sure there are other reasons that you can think of that account for the historical vagueness of particular patterns but you get the idea.

"Change is inevitable" is a truism that certainly applies to the design and coloration of trout flies. Why? Does a fly that caught trout decades ago somehow lose its effectiveness over time? Or, put another way, are we to believe that trout communicate, or genetically pass on warnings to their offspring? I doubt it. Besides, stocked trout usually don't have any offspring! Do we tyers like to experiment with flies to improve fish catching, the way a fly behaves on the water, the aesthetic look of the fly as we view it? Or do we just get bored tying the same old, but tried & true, patterns and try different designs? Sure we do. Do those with vested financial interests spend millions of dollars(\$) in marketing techniques to persuade us to buy new equipment, materials and patterns to satisfy and increase their profits? My answer to that is, 'Does a bear shit in the woods'. Haven't you all heard that, "to sell flies, you first have to sell the fisherman".

Every year more & more new fly patterns appear in the catalogs with descriptions anointing each one as a "wonder fly". How interesting that almost every one of these soon fades into oblivion, while the older patterns just keep getting older. Regardless of the reason, patterns, recipes and construction designs of reknown patterns have changed.

Seeing an onstream situation, a good fly fisher will usually have an idea how to approach it, what to do and what pattern to use. He or she has a good chance for success. A poor fly fisher put in that same situation, regardless of the fly pattern used, will most likely return home or to camp shaking his/her head.

Well that's my opinion. As always, your opinion(s) is(are) wanted and appreciated. What do you think about my comments above, the pattern reviewed on page 2 and the idea of having this column. Jot down a note and mail it to me with your thoughts, opinions, ideas and even corrections. AP

## SWAP COLUMN

Want your item(s) to be listed here? Simply contact me by letter, e-mail or phone and let me know what you: WILL SWAP (tying materials/tools, fishing gear, books, etc.) and what you WILL SWAP FOR. (ED)

Allan Podell (607)734-6257

e-mail: apodell@stny.Lrun.com

WILL SWAP: Blue Eared Pheasant quills & hackle; silver & gold thin tinsel(real); Genetic Necks of mediocre quality but better than imported; nice peacock tails & swords; black bear; reindeer; hen skins; loose partridge; paired duck wings; misc hooks & more.

WILL SWAP FOR: Wonderwax; grizzly saddles of decent quality; books; tackle; open to suggestions.

Floyd Franke (607)498-4508

WILL SWAP: New Fenwick CFS 9', 8 wgt, 4 pc. travel rod. Comes with warranty card.

WILL SWAP FOR: Similar quality 9 wgt travel rod.

Bill Leuszler (914) 733-6759

WILL SWAP: Fishing Flies & Fly Tying, by W. Blades, 1962 reprint.

WILL SWAP FOR: Streamcraft, by G.P. Holden

### OLD FAITHFUL: By Ted Patlen

A few years back, as a member of a now Defunct fly tying organization called DAAFT, I tried to initiate a series of articles written by members of that organization for their newsletter.

The idea: If you were to use only one fly, for trout, for the rest of your life; the fly that you would choose to use in one of those 'one fly contests'; your *secret* pattern; that one fly that you wouldn't even **think** about going fishing without; what would that one pattern be?

I believe that we each have one fly, a single pattern that is always the first fly used and usually the last one tried during a day on the water. (and at certain times the only fly used throughout the day) The time of year, clarity of the water, temperature, moon phase, etc..... nothing would matter; what's your "ol' reliable"?

Mine, a matuka; a long soft hackled olive matuka but with a chartreuse chenille body, a variation of Harry Darbee's "Horrible Matuka".

Given the clientele of this little group I don't think I have to get into the construction of this thing, only the recipe should suffice.

body: chartreuse chenille with a touch of red dubbing at the throat

rib: oval silver/gold tinsel or clear monofilament

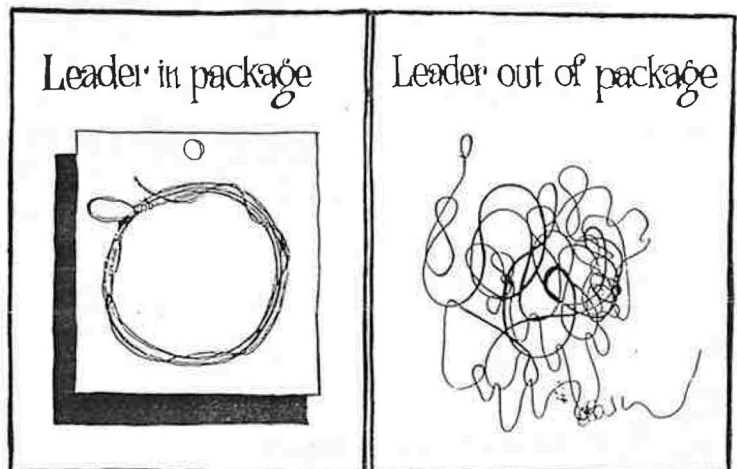
wing/collar: yellowish olive dyed grizzly hen body

head: chartreuse thread

It's that same old story. If you use one fly enough you're sure to catch fish with it. Why? Confidence and experience are probably the two major reasons... the nightcrawler that hangs from the back of it just might be another.

O.K. Now who's next?

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