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The Newsletter of the Columbia-Greene Rip Van Winkle Chapter #569 of Trout Unlimited

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TU...TO CONSERVE, PROTECT & RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S COLD WATER FISHERIES & THEIR WATERSHEDS

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## **WANT HUDSON RIVER KNOWLEDGE?... ...CHECK WITH EV NACK!**

Anyone who lives near Hudson, NY knows that if you want to learn about the Hudson River you check with either Everett Nack or the Encyclopedia Britannica,...preferably Everett! For about 35 years Ev has been my neighbor in Claverack. Before "I saw the light" and was converted, I used to stop at his bait shop to pick up minnows and meet two old trout fishing friends, Ed Knight and Jim Hogan. This was probably when John Libruk was still in diapers, so he wasn't with us.

While reading a book written by Robert H. Boyle entitled The Hudson River, it was interesting to see how much the carpenter and commercial fisherman Everett Nack was mentioned. It talked about his knowledge of shad fishing, and his ability to seine for goldfish (*carassius auratus*) to sell to wholesale aquarium fish dealers. In the winter Ev often trapped muskrat and mink in the river marshes. Other times of the year he would dig for snapping turtles (*chelydra serpentina*), monsters that reached up to 50 pounds. In Boyle's book Everett says, "Man, there's nothing like turtle lasagna."

Several months ago, when I asked Ev if he would be willing to show us his slides and talk about the river he said sure, in the winter when things slow down. In December, when I called him he was real busy repairing fishing nets and butchering several deer he and his sons harvested. I think Everett is busier now than he was when I spoke with him in the summer, however, he is willing to come and be with us on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and I for one am sure looking forward to his visit and the opportunity to learn more about our beautiful Hudson River. Hank

## **DAN DELIVERS DOCUMENTARY**

Dan Zielinski, a veteran New York State DEC fisheries biologist who covers Columbia and Greene Counties, among others, was our guest speaker at the chapter meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004. He presented, with a power point projector, an ongoing study done on the Catskill Creek during the past 25 years to identify and document areas on the creek that hold native brown and rainbow trout.

The survey has been done on a somewhat irregular schedule by various DEC staff members, but was last done by Dan in 2003. It covered a large section of the stream that included Greene and Albany Counties. The graphs he projected on the screen indicated comparisons of native yearling trout in relationship to water temperature and other factors. It was a most interesting

and informative program presented by a professional who knew the stream as if he owned it. The presentation was laced with solid information from personal involvement in the project.

Dan, we certainly appreciate your efforts and thank you for taking the time and energy to assemble the excellent presentation and we applaud your willingness to entertain questions at its conclusion. For those of you who missed it, neither Hank nor I will reveal where section 31 is on the Catskill Creek!

Dick

## **FLY TYING CLASS COMMENCES WITH UNRUFFLED FEATHERS**

Despite a slightly worrisome time regarding the fly tying course, the start day finally arrived on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Several of us were a little nervous because it appeared that we only had one student. The C-GCC Bulletin was published and sent later than its normal publication date, consequently those who saw it there only had a few days to decide whether or not to sign up for the course. We did, however, get the announcement to the local newspapers in both Columbia and Greene Counties, the local TV cable companies, and local bulletin boards in public places thanks to Gordon Gibson who made some posters. We also thank Dick Nelson for publicizing it in his column in the Register-Star.

The class began as scheduled with a nice contingent of TU teachers for the 4 students that signed up for the course. Enough fly tying TU members showed up so that each student got 1-on-1 instruction. It was a good start and our advance preparations with materials and instruction booklets paid off. There were no changes in the curriculum so it is basically the same course that has been given for the past few years.

Now that this hurdle has passed it is time to start thinking of the fly fishing course that will begin on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Volunteers are still needed to assist with the classroom and casting portions of this program. If you can help with any of these classes it will be appreciated. This course traditionally draws more interest and last year we started with about 20 students. If we have a similar turnout this year, your assistance will be most helpful. You can call Lynn Lee (828-5402), Hank Theiss (851-9442), or me (851-7002) to indicate your interest, or just show up at class time. The course will be held at Hudson High School, in Room 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Dick

## **SPRING RAFFLE!**

Our spring raffle is ready to be launched the end of this month! Members and friends of RVW # 569 will receive raffle books in the mail, or at a meeting. Tickets are \$1 /ea. or 6 /\$5.

The prizes are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Orvis graphite 4pc. 5wt. rod, reel and case.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - A selection of "Dette Flies" tied by the Dette family of the Catskills, \$50.00 worth of tying materials from "Blue River Anglers", and a custom wader hanger.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - A beautifully framed trout print and a signed copy of "My Side of the River," by

Roger Menard.

A ticket, for every book of tickets sold, will be placed in a separate drawing for those who sold them to be eligible for a chance at winning a duplicate rod. This is our main fundraiser of the year and we hope to have enthusiastic participation from all our members and friends. If you have questions or don't receive your tickets by March 1, call Tim Lippert at 239-8490. Tim

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SPONSORS of our TU CHAPTER FUNDRAISER:**

Blue River Anglers, Middleburgh 827-8000

Black Dome Press, Hensonville 734-6357

Catskill Paint Co., Rensselaerville 239-8490

Rudloff Construction, Medusa 239-8397

## **SUMMER CAMP!**

The NYS DEC will host its annual summer camp program in four areas of the Catskills and Adirondacks. This is a great opportunity for your 12-17 year old to learn of natural resources and conservation concepts.

The Greene County Federation of Sportsmen and Trout Unlimited Rip Van Winkle Chapter will split the cost of two campers (\$225.00). Any additional campers may attend with half the fee paid by the Greene County Federation and the balance paid by the parents. If you have children that might like to go to one of these weeklong summer camps please get their names to Hank Theiss by Feb 13, (851-9442). The two campers sponsored by TU will be selected at random and the remainder of campers will be notified so their parents can decide if they want to contribute the outstanding half of the fee (\$112.50).

More information can be found at [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us) or email [edcamps@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:edcamps@gw.dec.state.ny.us) for applications. Tim

## **THE CURRENT ON"LINE"**

**IF YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER BY MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE CO-EDITORS SO OUR TU CHAPTER CAN SAVE MONEY ON MAILINGS.**

**Also, if anyone doesn't want to receive the newsletter any longer please notify one of us:**

Dick Riccio (518) 851-7002

Hank Theiss (518) 851-9442 [newsletter@cgtu.org](mailto:newsletter@cgtu.org)

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS UPDATE**

We have experienced considerable confusion regarding membership fees due to a change in policy from TU National Headquarters. I called the membership representative in Virginia and after playing telephone tag for a few weeks, finally got answers to some of our questions from John Gale, the Chapter Support Coordinator. We discussed the issues and he sent me a packet of information that we apparently never received when it was originally sent out last October. It

contains explanation and promotion material, as well as updated applications to reflect the new membership levels and dues for each level.

The primary way for our chapter to make any money on a new member is for them to join TU by getting an application from me, or from anyone else in the chapter who may have one. I have a supply of new ones and will bring them to meetings and classes, and will send one to any interested person. When an applicant completes and sends the application to headquarters, it is considered joining through our chapter. We then get a “new member” rebate from TU National. It will be calculated based on the membership level, and paid twice a year (April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>).

If an applicant joins through the TU National Website, the person must go to a special website – [www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro). During the process they will be prompted to enter a code (our chapter number), in order for us to get the \$15.00 rebate. If they do not know the chapter number, they will be assigned by zip code to a chapter who will get the rebate.

Below is the rebate schedule based on the membership level.

<u>MEMBERSHIP LEVEL</u>	<u>DUES</u>	<u>REBATE</u>
Special Introductory	\$17.50	\$15.00
3 year regular	90.00	25.00
Family	50.00	20.00
3 year family	100.00	25.00
Sponsor	100.00	30.00
Business	200.00	50.00
Conservator	250.00	50.00
Life	1,000.00	150.00
Family Life	1,100.00	160.00

The chapter also is entitled to a rebate of \$1.00 per member (with some exceptions) provided that the chapter treasurer sends the proper records to the State Council and that they in turn send the proper records to National Headquarters by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. National sends the money to Council who then distributes it to the local chapter. Dick

## **FROM THE EDITORS: THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Facts do not cease to exist simply because they are ignored.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

## **La ROCCA’S CORNER – “Fish Tails & Fish Tales”**

Our part of the country is in a deep freeze and has been so for a few weeks. We are not very far into winter by the calendar, but there is a sign that cabin fever time may be approaching more quickly than we think. That sign is an imagined competition which I believe is a harbinger of the cabin fever season.

## THE RACE

It's already over! Yes, there will be a few stragglers, but the premier players have arrived at the finish line. The winner this year is Cabella's, but a close second, arriving in my mailbox just a day later than Cabella's, was Henry Field's. The first four to the finish line this year, in order:

*Cabella's Fly Fishing – Spring/Summer 2004 Catalogue*  
*Henry Field's Seed & Nursery Co. Spring Catalogue 2004*  
*Orvis Rod and Tackle Fly Fishing 2004 Volume 1A Catalogue*  
*L.L. Bean Fly Fishing 2004 Catalogue*

A surprise is that Burpee's and Johnny's Selected Seeds are still not here! All these glossy reminders that spring will eventually come are also a sure sign that cabin fever time is near.

I love it! New equipment; new varieties and hybrids; all those colorful photos and glowing product descriptions; high tech lines and waders; fast-growing, long-storing onions...what could be better? In just a few days the pages are dog-eared, corners are folded over, items are circled and starred, and little notes appear in the page margins, "Looks like Orvis' best boot, but \$20 cheaper"...or..."Split a packet with Tom M. to see if they do well in our soil." For a while these slick publications take the place of a good book. If you stay with them too long, however, they can be trouble. When I go back through them for a second or third time they begin to engender a little – more than a little – guilt. "I don't need that, I already have a good net." Occasionally they disappoint: after planning all year to buy an extra spool for his favorite fly reel when the new catalogue arrived, one friend found that it wasn't listed in the new edition. Bummer!

And now for a confession. These catalogues – fishing and seed – make up just a fraction of the hundreds that arrive at our house every year. On the days when six or eight of them clutter my mailbox I get aggravated. (Of late I have been joking that I'd like to talk to my builder to determine, if, when he starts work on our new home this spring, he might put up the foundation forms and fill them with catalogues instead of concrete!) They just pile up and pile up. Here's the confession: when the fishing and seed catalogues arrive I squirrel them away so they are not visible when I raise the inevitable "discussion" with my wife, Nancy, about throwing the catalogues away! After many years we have reached accommodation...but I don't take chances with my fishing and seed catalogues!

And this is not so much a confession as an observation. For a number of years now at the end of every day I have been throwing my pocket change into a clay urn marked "fishing funds". (My father did that sort of thing for years, right up until he died a couple of years ago. I probably inherited that behavior. Fifty years ago I remember him hauling out jars and cans, sitting my brothers and me at the kitchen table, and saying, "Count it, boys; we are going on vacation with whatever is here." Mom, Dad, and the three brothers went to Maine for a week!) By mid-March I might have sixty or seventy dollars in "fishing funds". Out come the catalogues and I order, generally spending most of the cache on flies, leaders, shot and maybe floatant. Lo and behold, I never seem to order the new, the high tech, or the fascinating. With all those notes and turned corners and starred and circled items, I still buy Hare's Ears, Pheasant Tails, Adams and Woolly Buggers. Same for the seeds...Detroit Dark Red Beets or no beets at all!

This year I think I'll buy a vest...a mesh shortie; mine is pretty beat. Check it out when you see me on the creek in May.

## **HANK'S FLY BOX – Schoharie Special**

Several years ago my son and I were fishing the Schoharie Creek with John Libruk when he gave each of us a few flies and said, "Try these." I asked what they were called and John replied, "Let's just call them Schoharie Specials."

While speaking with John just recently, he mentioned that a long time fly fisherman and our chapter TU member, Fred Bernockie, gave him that fly several years ago. Mr. Bernockie, as John recalls, use to get these flies from a couple named Mr. and Mrs. Johns. Mr. Bernockie, you can be assured that the skill and knowledge you and the Johns' Family passed on to other fly fishermen continue to be passed on. Thank you Mr. Bernockie!

To me it looks similar to a Brown Bivisible with an orange egg sac. I have looked in many, many tying books and have never found it. In Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen's book, Flies For Trout, they talk about all-purpose flies and I quote, "Female mayflies...can often be seen with bright yellow, green or orange egg clusters at the end of their abdomens. At times, trout seem to key on this feature and having a few flies like this, in a variety of sizes, might just save the day," and that may come the closest to answering what the Schoharie Special represents. Here is the simple recipe as I tie it.

### SCHOHARIE SPECIAL

Hook: Dry fly 14-18

Thread: Orange

Tail: Brown hackle barbs or microfibetts

Body: Orange floss (tag in back)

Hackle: Brown (tied full like a Bivisible)

Try it!...it's easy to tie, it floats like a cork, it lasts forever...and John Libruk and Fred Bernockie both say it works!

## **MEETINGS:**

**EVERY MONTH:** Our regularly scheduled meetings are the **3rd Tuesday of each month (except July and August)** unless otherwise indicated. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at O'Brien's Restaurant on Route 23B in Leeds, NY.

**THIS MONTH:** Tuesday, February 17, 2004

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 16, 2004

### **OTHER DATES:**

**Fly Casting Course** at Hudson HS - 6 Thursday nights, starting February 26, 2004 (7-9:00 p.m.) If you can help with tying and/or casting please call Lynn Lee at 828-5402.

**ATTENTION:** Dan Zielinski will give a similar presentation on the Catskill Creek to the

Greene County Federation of Sportsmen, February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cocksackie Game Club.  
Call Dick (851-7002) for details.

**COLUMBIA-GREENE RIP VAN WINKLE CHAPTER #569 OF TROUT UNLIMITED**  
**Chapter Officers**

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**Keep current...with The Current! Dick & Hank (CO-EDITORS)**