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

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

Some of this information will be old news to many of you, but to others it will be fresh. We wanted to bring you up to date on some of the activities the membership has been involved with this past spring and summer:

May 22nd – STUDENTS' DAY ON THE STREAM. Traditionally, the chapter invites the students who were in the fly-tying and fly-fishing classes during the past year, to fish at a designated stream in order to get some real experience with fly fishing. This year was no different. Several Columbia-Greene TU members participated in this successful endeavor at the confluence of the Schoharie and Batavia Kill Creeks, but it took Ed Malone, a student, to show Hank Theiss how to fish, as he caught a brown trout where Hank had caught none.

June 15th - CHAPTER MEETING ON THE STREAM. After a brief meeting at the Art Flick Memorial on the Schoharie Creek the members dispersed and fished. Just about all of us caught brown trout. Wendy Neefus got there early and fished before the meeting as well as afterward...his total catch for the day was about 42. However, Ted Petricini took Ron Baumann to a spot downstream where Ron caught a 20-inch brown. It was a good day. Yes, it was "catch and release".

June 20th – FISHING WITH FRAN. Fran Martino, a C-GTU member, conducted a fishing day for youth on Father's Day. Lynn Lee, our president, was there to provide guidance and support to young fishers. Others who participated that day were Bobby Fisher, Bill Newcomb and Wendy Neefus.

July 29th – Our chapter was invited to the **CONESVILLE ROD AND GUN CLUB** to give a **FLY-TYING DEMONSTRATION.** Tim Lippert, Hank Theiss, and I brought the equipment and supplies to this Schoharie County community. Hank demonstrated how to tie the Woolly Worm and Hare's Ear to about 15 members. The rod and gun clubbers also tied the flies and were amazed at what they produced. I enjoyed the evening because their chocolate chip cookies and brownies were great!...they were so good I didn't leave any for Hank and Tim.

August 6th – LAKE TAGHKANIC DEMONSTRATION. Hank and I were invited by Pam Price, a C-GTU member who among other things directs the nature program at the park, to demonstrate fly tying and casting. We did and about 15 people, mostly youngsters and their parents, participated in both activities. We rewarded the younger folks with previously tied flies that could be worn on their shirts, like a broach, on a contraption that Hank invented using old wine corks and safety pins.

Your chapter has been very active even though we have not made headlines. Come join the activities at chapter meetings and other events.

Dick

BASH BISH FLY-FISHING CASTING & TYING PRESENTATION

“Come tie one on at Taconic State Park,” joked Fran Martino, environmental educator who will lead a presentation about fly fishing along with members of Trout Unlimited on Saturday, October 16th from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Experienced fly-fishing enthusiasts will demonstrate the art of tying flies and give tips on casting techniques. People are encouraged to bring their own fly rod to practice their skills. Members of the Rip Van Winkle Chapter #569 of Trout Unlimited will help teach people how to recognize the various stages of aquatic insects and share their fly-fishing experiences with participants.

Reservations can be made by calling Taconic State Park at (518) 329-3993 by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14th. Early registration is encouraged since the number of participants is limited. Participants are reminded that trout season ends on October 15th and that if they plan to fish for other species, a valid New York State fishing license is required for anyone over 16 years of age.

Visit website www.nysparks.com to learn more about Taconic State Park, or other locations.

“HATCH GUIDE FOR NEW ENGLAND STREAMS” BOOK SIGNING

Thomas Ames, Jr. will be signing copies of his book "Hatch Guide for New England Streams" Saturday, November 13th at Hudson Valley Angler, (7396 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY.) Copies of the book will be available for purchase, \$19.95 for paperback and \$24.95 for hardcover...or bring your own copy. This is a very important book for hatches in our area as well as in the Adirondacks and New England. Refreshments will be served.

Vinny Sherburne, C-GTU member, and owner of Hudson Valley Angler (815) 758-9203

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

FROM THE EDITORS: THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“If you want to catch more fish; fish when other fishermen don’t fish where other fishermen don’t, and fish how other fishermen don’t.”

GARY LaFONTAINE

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

If you fish, you are likely to have a fishing buddy. Even if you like to fish alone, it is highly likely that, if only in your own head, you have a fishing buddy. A new fisherman will have at least one fishing pal; quite often it is a mentor who was instrumental in the new fisherman’s introduction to the ways of water and fish. Old timers most often have lots of folks with whom they share their passion...either on or off the water.

WILL

My first and still very active fishing buddies are my brothers, and you may have read a bit about them in various columns in this newsletter. When we started we all fished together pretty much always, now we fish together far less frequently and individually fish with varying frequency. Steve fishes most often, Paul least, and I am about in the middle. I am trying to catch up with Steve on this score! He’s helping me to do that by extending an invitation for me to join him on some of his excursions and urges me on by calling after his own trips to report results...often more than a few trout. Just yesterday we fished the Neversink Gorge for a few hours together.

During our high school years my brothers and I were often joined by kindred soul classmates and friends on trips to local New Jersey streams and lakes as well as a few camping/fishing trips to the Beaverkill in the Roscoe area. I distinctly remember an early morning incident in which a state trooper followed me (according to him) for ten miles on the Route 17 Quickway and then pulled me over to tell me I had approached 90 miles an hour in my father’s new and very powerful Pontiac station wagon. Dad had been reluctant to allow us to go on our own, especially with three additional high school buddies along, but had trusted us – me in particular – with final words like, “Just go slow in that big car!” Unbelievably, the trooper let us – me – go with a warning...he must have been a trout fisherman, and I probably was not going 90 mph!

Not many high school fishing pals beyond my brothers hung on through college years, in fact, I did not fish much through college. The one pal who did was Eddie who was a classmate in both elementary and high school and then attended Providence College with me. I remember a dead-of-winter trip for cod with Ed on a little party boat out of Narragansett called the Flying Squirrel (billed itself as the fastest party boat on the east coast). The captain revved the engine just as we turned the corner out of the breakwater and a big swell hit the bow, broke over the front deck, and drenched me from head to toe. I went below and spent nearly the whole trip in a tiny heated cabin with three or four cigar-smoking “old salts” who made the trip to drink beer not catch cod. I was sick as a dog in minutes! Ed had no sympathy. At the end of our junior year at Providence Ed and I made a long road trip down the Blue Ridge Parkway to fish the Linville River Gorge in North Carolina. We bought licenses from a 90-year- old warden who advised, “You boys be

care-ful down there in the gorge...dangerous...snakes and all.” We got rained on and caught no fish!

In graduate school I met Tom who had married a good friend’s sister and was working on a doctorate at Cornell. I learned that Tom was a fly fisherman – a good one – and for a couple of years we fished the many small streams around Ithaca...probably more than we should have. When it comes to fly fishing, Tom was my real mentor, and I continue to learn from him. We fish together still since Tom lives just a couple of miles away. He recently started to fly fish for stripers, and maybe next summer when we take our annual family vacation to Cape Cod, I’ll look to him for guidance at the Pamet River jetty.

A few years after we moved to Medusa I got to know a couple of fellows who fished the Ten Mile Creek, and one spring they invited me to join them for an ice-out trip into the St. Regis Canoe Area ponds. Organization of the trip the following spring fell to me, and that began a ten-year string of trips – one at ice-out and one just at season’s end – that evolved to elaborate expeditions. I got the nickname of *Adirondack Elf*, and the trips became known as A. E. Tours. One year, on a frosty morning, I met the guys returning from our normal early morning fishing. I stood on the landing in front of the leanto wearing a tuxedo I had packed in with a white napkin over my arm and invited them to breakfast of venison steak and eggs! We made about twenty trips, and all of my fishing buddies on those trips had nicknames: Dutch, Markey, Big Al, Gordo and his sons Ed and the other Ed, Toad and his sons Knard and Schmed, and ‘Lil Elf. We caught a few fish. We had a lot of fun.

Will is my most recent fishing buddy; we have fished together less than a half dozen times, and only twice on trout streams. Will is a contemporary of my son (best man at his wedding) and a couple of years ago decided he wanted to learn to fly fish. He read, watched, took a brief course, then loaded his car, drove across the country and fished the big name rivers of the West on his own. I was and am still envious! I’ve got two vivid memories of Will that are distinctly different. In high school Will was a first class soccer goalie, but he wasn’t much on the baseball field. I remember him trying to turn one of his very few hits, a long single to right, into a triple; he was out at third. I thought, “That was a little awkward!” Then a couple of years ago we fruitlessly fished the Catskill Creek one rainy fall day and I watched in amazement as Will laid out long, fluid casts that were anything but awkward. We have recently fished the Farmington together – again fruitlessly – and have plans to hit it again this fall. I am really looking forward to that.

And then there are all those fishing buddies with whom I’ve never fished...but with whom I talk about fishing. As my wife says, “Sooner or later it always comes around to fishing.” There are many of you...you know who you are.

HANK'S FLY BOX

This month’s fly has been submitted to me by John Prokorym, the individual who did such a great job building the fly rods for our raffle. Thank you John for this interesting and unique contribution to our newsletter.

Hank

THE ROOKIE by John J. Prokorym

I have been a commercial fly tyer for more than twenty-five years. Here in the east most of the flies that I am requested to tie are dry flies, thus I have acquired numerous feathers and dry fly capes...but not all the feathers on a cape are usable. The long large saddle hackles are usually left when all the usable feathers are used for the standard size dry fly patterns. As frugal tyers, as most of us are, we don't discard any possible fly tying material.

My quest was to figure out a use for these natural dun colored feathers. I have also been fishing for as long as I have been tying and each spring and fall I like to troll and cast flies for landlocked salmon in Lake George. These salmon prefer to feed mostly on smelt. I had been tying streamers commercially for this fishery and wanted more than standard patterns had to offer...finally a use for the saddle hackles!

I borrowed ideas from other existing patterns, old and new. By applying epoxy to the pearl tubing I had chosen for a body of the fly, it took on a pearlescent greenish color that I was looking for. The wing could vary from light to dark dun depending which cape I tied with. To these I added a belly of white bucktail cheeks of breast feathers of a Silver Pheasant. I put epoxy over the head area and locked the wing into position atop the body and hair below the body as a long throat. I then added large silver prism stick on eyes at the front of the cheeks and applied another coat of epoxy. I thought this was going to be a blunder upon viewing the end result but I gave it a try. The added weight of the epoxy proved to be the key to the success as it caused the fly to flutter like a wounded smelt when paused or when the direction of retrieve changed.

A fellow angler asked if I would show him the techniques to catch landlocked salmon from his new boat. Just after ice-out that spring we headed out on Lake George to flat line streamer flies with our fly rods. After a few hours of trolling my friend Eric said, "Give me a fly that will catch a salmon, I'm a rookie at this game." I dug out one of my new smelt patterns and he tied it onto his sinking line and we trolled a point that usually holds fish. On our second pass Eric's rod bucked with the strike and he set the hook and fought and landed his first fly-caught landlocked salmon, a four-pound male. "Not bad for a Rookie!" he proclaimed...and the fly had been given a name.

Since that trip many other fish have been caught on the Rookie pattern. I have also reduced the size from the four-inch tandem fly to as small as a size 10 streamer. The Rookie has caught just about every species of fish in freshwater that feeds on baitfish. The most important thing to remember when fishing this fly is that it is a copy of a wounded baitfish and you must pause the retrieve frequently. With each pause the fly flutters like a stunned or wounded baitfish.

The following are the tying instructions for THE CASTING SIZE ROOKIE:

HOOK: Mustad 36620 or 3665A or 79580 or equivalent 6X long shank streamer size 4-6-8-10

THREAD: Gudebrod 6/0 gray or any gray thread you are comfortable tying with

BODY: Original Pattern = small pearlescent tubing tied in at both ends on the hook with rear excess frayed and extending to the bend of the hook.

Updated Pattern = Pearl HT Braid-Gudebrod tied in with tail extending to bend of hook and then wound forward.

Remove hook from vise and coat either body with a thin coat of Epoxy, rotating the hook while it dries to avoid sagging of the epoxy. Using 5-minute epoxy you can turn hook in your hand but with longer curing epoxy, like 30-minute, you must use a drying wheel.

WING: The tips of large light dun saddle hackles, (2 feathers for sizes 8 & 10, 4 feathers for sizes 4 & 6), dull sides of feathers facing each other. The wing should be just longer than the bend of the hook, too long will cause the wing to foul around the bend of the hook and spin unnaturally.

CHEEKS: Finely barred Silver Pheasant breast feathers, 1/3 wing length on each side of fly.

EYES: 1/8 " stick on silver prism attached at front of cheeks and then coated with epoxy; or a light coat of epoxy, put eyes on and then another light coat of epoxy over. A gill slash can be added with a permanent waterproof red marker, on under side between the eyes.

AND THE WINNER IS...

George Goth won the September Meeting door prize of 13 hand tied flies graciously prepared and donated by Wendy Neefus. It was a **free** door prize.

A door prize will be **given away** at each meeting. You may be the next winner! All you need to do is show up for the next meeting on Tuesday, October 19th, 2004. Dick

C-GTU 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, October 19, 2004 - **FREE "FLY" DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 16, 2004

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

Chapter Officers

President	Lynn Lee	(518) 828-5402	president@cgtu.org
Vice President	Hank Theiss	(518) 851-9442	vicepresident@cgtu.org
Secretary	Tim Lippert	(518) 239-8490	secretary@cgtu.org
Treasurer	Dave Rudloff	(518) 239-8397	treasurer@cgtu.org

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