

---

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

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

*Co-Editors Note: We are happy that one of our members offered to submit the following article. We appreciate Dave Griffin's willingness to contribute to the newsletter. Other contributions are always welcomed! Also, we thank Ted Petricini for the great job he did at our last meeting. We're fortunate to have such knowledgeable and willing members!*

### TED PETRICINI SPEAKS AT CHAPTER MEETING

Ted Petricini, a licensed guide employed by Hunter Mountain, spoke at the chapter's October meeting. Ted's main waters are the Schoharie and Esopus Creeks. He has quite a bit of experience taking fishermen of all levels out for a day of paid-for fishing. He shared some of his secrets (but not his darkest ones) regarding good fishing spots and typical flies for use on both creeks. I took notes and will summarize them here, but please remember that I didn't write down everything he said...just those things I thought might be useful to me.

**The Schoharie Creek.** Ted says this is very much Caddis water. The major fly is the Prince Nymph. "Don't go on the creek without one," he said. "Tie a size 16 with a tungsten bead and bounce it off the bottom." Other good flies are the Yellow Stimulator, the Picket Pin in size 12 and the Brown Drake. Tie isonychias with black dubbing and a dark gray stripe for the Schoharie. The Elk Wing Caddis also works well. For a terrestrial, use cinnamon, not black ants on the Schoharie.

Great spots to fish include Mosquito Point on Route 23, above the barrier dam in Prattsville, and below the barrier just before dark at the feeder creeks. Also fish off the Electric Light Company dam a mile or so upstream of the Route 214 bridge. Get there by walking through the woods between the stream and Wild Cat Road (closed) south of the creek. Cross to the north side before the dam. It's also important to remember that the Schoharie is an east-west oriented creek so it stays warm through day...best to find a place where it's bent to the north-south and may be shaded and cooler.

**The Esopus Creek.** Ted says the fishing here has been good the past couple of years. I guess I need to go out with him on the creek!! Good places to fish are the Chimney Hole and another hole midway between the railway trestle and the 5 Arches Bridge. (Don't forget, you need your DEP permit downstream from the 5 Arches.) Also, there's a good hole behind the Spotted Dog Café, part of Catskills Corners in Mt. Tremper on Route 28. He also spoke of a cemetery past

Phoenicia on Route 28 almost to the portal. Ted says the streamers he uses most often on the Esopus are black Woolly Buggers and white Woolly Buggers. Isonychias are the normal mahogany and ants can be either red or black. For dries, follow the hatch.

Ted said that he almost always fishes with a 9 foot 4 weight rod and sometimes uses a 3 weight in the summer. He doesn't see the need for anything larger. After his talk he mentioned that there is an Orvis store at the Hunter Mountain main lodge, open during most of the fishing season, but not at this time of year.

Dave Griffin

## **CUBS PARTICIPATE IN 3-PRONGED ACTIVITY**

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, members of Trout Unlimited gathered at Taconic State Park in Copake, NY, to take part in an environmental education program combined with a fly fishing session for a group of cub scouts and their parents. Fran Martino, one of our chapter members, organized the program and broke it down into 3 sections, since there were about 45 participants.

Scott Allen, scoutmaster for the Dutchess County Cub Scout Pack # 182 from the Freedom Plains Church in LaGrange, NY, assisted in organizing and routing the kids to the right locations. Fran gave one group an entomology and environmental lesson, while Bill Newcomb, "The Reel Cowboy" from the Albany Chapter, showed another group how to tie his famous Victoria's Dragonfly. The third group got a chance to examine various animal skins and feathers, that may be used in tying flies, while awaiting their turn at getting a fly casting lesson.

Fran provided muskrat, beaver, and mink skins. The bear, deer, fox and antelope skins as well as pheasant and ostrich feathers were provided by our chapter of TU...they were recently donated to us by member Vinny Sherburne who owns The Hudson River Angler shop in Red Hook, NY.

The groups rotated so that all the children had a chance to participate in each activity. These cubs were enthusiastic and energetic as they moved from one area to the next. Hopefully this experience will eventually spark a lifelong interest in a pleasurable recreational activity. Many thanks go to the above folks as well as to the following members who brought fly rods and equipment for the kids to use and who stayed for several hours during the cold overcast day to provide casting lessons and give advice to the kids and parents as well: Bobby Fisher, John Libruk, Ron Decker, Joe Reina, and Dick Riccio.

Dick

## **TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE...**

### **...THAT IS THE QUESTION!**

At our October TU meeting a discussion was entertained about the possibility of relocating our meeting place. At the November meeting we plan to discuss the pros and cons of each location. After we gather more information about each site we can make an educated decision for the future place for our meetings.

Please come and voice your opinion on November 16<sup>th</sup>! This is your TU chapter and we want to do what is agreeable to the majority who attend the meetings.

Hank

## **YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Hank and I have noticed that there are mistakes in some of the personal items that TU Headquarters has listed for you. In some cases names are incorrectly spelled, and in others addresses are wrong. We have attempted to correct these mistakes for our own convenience, but **TU National will not allow us to make the changes.** So, when you get correspondence (magazines, renewal notices, calendars etc.) from TU National, take a look to see if your name is spelled correctly and if they have the proper address for you. If you discover a mistake it can be corrected in about 30 seconds by calling 1-800-834-2419. **You must make the call and make the change.** We are not allowed to do it for you. John Gale, our chapter liaison at headquarters, states that you get to talk to a real person too. So, make the call soon before they change that policy. Dick

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE UPDATE**

Hank and I try to wind up our activities for The Current by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month in order to get it reviewed, corrected, copied, assembled, stamped and sent out by the end of the month via email and the US Postal Service. All these procedures make it absolutely necessary for us to receive all entries for the newsletter by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Thank you for helping us meet this deadline.

Dick

## **“THANK YOU!” GENEROUS FOLKS**

The chapter is lucky to have generous donors, both members and non-members. In October we received a gift from a friend of mine that will be valuable to us for many years. It is a full computer system consisting of a desk computer, monitor, fancy keyboard, mouse, speakers, wiring, and many software programs that will be useful. It has a 500 MHz Pentium 3 CPU, 20 gigabyte hard drive, cd writer, virus protection program, and other features. It is already in use as George Goth edits the instruction book for the fly tying course. Hank and I may be able to use it for the newsletter too, and hopefully it will be put to other good uses by the membership.

Another donor gave the chapter fly tying material that will be used for the fly tying class that starts in January 2005. Some of the fur and feathers have already been used at the fly casting program for the cub scouts as mentioned in an article earlier in this newsletter.

We are grateful to Audre Higbee, in Claverack, for the computer and to Vinny Sherburne, a member who owns Hudson Valley Angler in Red Hook, for the fly tying material.

Anybody want to donate a printer?

Dick

## **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**

*"I never lost a little fish – Yes, I am free to say.  
It was always the biggest fish I caught, that got away."*

EUGENE FIELD (1805-1895), The Quotable Fisherman

## **La ROCCA'S CORNER – "Fish Tails & Fish Tales"**

It is major league baseball playoff time and I love it. I never played baseball super well, but I made a few good defensive plays in my little league career; I liked coaching and managing it – teeball to "majors" in Preston Hollow; and I liked umpiring it (only umpire, as far as I know, to throw a parent out of the ballpark in Preston Hollow for bad behavior). Now I enjoy watching baseball...especially those Yankees!

### **FREE BASEBALL**

Whatever you might say or feel about cable or satellite television, for an avid sports spectator it is hard to beat. I am not a couch potato by any means, but I do spend some time with the YES Network and I am a real fan of Michael Kay, the play-by-play announcer for Yankee games. When the game goes into extra innings and he says something like, "Settle in friends, we've got free baseball," I smile to myself and say, "Yeah, extra innings, wonderful!" As I sit here at the keyboard there have just been two consecutive nights of free baseball between the Yankees and the Red Sox; it doesn't get any better. Actually, it might have been better if the Yankees had won either of the two aforementioned games, but so be it!

What does this have to do with trout fishing you ask? Well, for me, this year has been one with free fishing, extra innings...a season in New York that went beyond September 30<sup>th</sup> and the "discovery" of some fishing spots that will allow for trout fishing all year long if I want to play. Extended seasons and trout waters that are open to fishing all year long are really not new, but I guess I'm "old school." I still think of trout fishing as wrapping up on September 30<sup>th</sup>. (As an aside, I learned yesterday that I am "old school" on more than this dimension. A newly-hired young colleague at work who was in my office helping me on a project said at one point, "You are 'old school', and I knew it as soon as I came into your office; your computer is on a table behind you. 'New schoolers' don't need any paper, so no need for a computer table...their laptop is always right on their desk!"

Even though this extended season stuff is not really new, it does seem that it is catching on...getting more popular...certainly getting more press. Just this month one of the popular fly-

fishing magazines carried a long article on equipment for winter fishing rating everything from fingerless gloves to fleece bib overalls for under your Gore-Tex waders. By the way, none of the stuff is cheap, and if you are only going to get out for a few trips, your deer hunting warm weather stuff will likely fill the bill. A few pages later in the same magazine there was an article on the top trout streams in New England, and five of the ten streams chronicled had either no closed season or a long extended season on at least part of their courses. In New York State the years when the regular season closes on September 30<sup>th</sup> are getting progressively fewer, and there are increasing numbers of stream stretches that are open all year or have “extra inning” seasons. This situation is clearly the result of more scientific and accepted fisheries management and the “catch and release” ethic that we all tend to both practice and preach.

I have not researched the history of extended seasons in New York, but the first one that I remember was probably more than 20 years ago; I remember it because we decided to make our autumn pilgrimage to the Adirondack trout ponds at the end of the season as usual. That year it meant going in on October 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> and coming out three or four days later. We had two glorious days on the water, caught no more or fewer fish than at the end of September, and especially enjoyed evening campfires with a couple of bottles of port wine for which one of the crew had recently developed a fondness. It gave the illusion of warmth during evenings that were decidedly cooler than had we gone at the end of September. We awoke on the morning of our last day of fishing to sporadic squalls of wet snow and decided to keep fishing according to the plan. The weather moderated that evening for our last campfire but changed dramatically while we slept in the tents and lean-to. We awoke to a real Adirondack snowstorm and had to break camp and paddle, portage and hike with a howling wind driving heavy wet snow in our faces all the way out. All of us were a bit more macho then and reported, at least to the public, that we loved it. We did not do it again.

Some years later I “discovered” the Esopus’ extended season and, on a glorious fall day, fished in “extra innings”. My wife and son accompanied me as did my buddy Tom and his wife. We set up on that high grassy bank downstream of the access point at the giant Kaleidoscope, opening the lawn chairs, laying out a picnic lunch, and spreading out the Sunday New York Times. Fish, eat, read, relax in the sun and foliage...we would have a good time no matter what. Less than a half hour after set up I hooked a good fish...one of those big rainbows that follow the spawning browns upstream to eat their eggs. It was, I think, the best fish I’ve touched in the Esopus, but I’ll never know its dimensions. The fish ran upstream and down, jumped a couple of times, and then broke me off above the Prince Nymph. We do have a great sequence of photographs captured by my wife and son: John with rod doubled over, Mark running for his camera, the fish in midair during one of the jumps, John with rod again, this time unflexed, flyless tippet blowing in the breeze! That trip did it for me; I am a real fan of the Esopus in the autumn but am really distressed by the muddy water that so often greets me when I arrive in Phoenicia.

In an essay entitled “Neither Snow, nor Rain, nor Gloom of Night” from his book Sex, Death and Fly Fishing, John Gierach writes, “The thing is, it is easy to pass on winter fishing. You have to summon a little basic courage to do it. You’ll be cold, and your pack will be heavy...but you have to do it because not doing it means you’ve gotten tired or lazy or too busy, all of which are bad signs.”

And now for me there are the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers...let the adventure begin.

## **HANK'S FLY BOX – The Picket Pin**

Last night after our meeting, Dick, my son Henry and I were talking about what a good job Ted did in his presentation about the Schoharie. We talked about Ted recommending the Prince Nymph, one of my favorite flies as many of you know. I was glad I had included the recipe for it in the December 2003 Fly Box. He also suggested the Picket Pin. When I explained what I thought the Picket Pin was to Dick and Henry it occurred to me that it would be a good fly to use in the Fly Box this month because others may not be sure what it is or how to tie it.

Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen, in Flies for Trout, state, "The Picket Pin isn't your average wet fly." It can be retrieved like a streamer to imitate a baitfish, weighted with lead and fished like a nymph, or tied with an elk or deer hair wing and fished dry. Here is their recipe:

### **PICKET PIN**

Hook: Nymph 2x or 3x long size 8-12

Thread: Black

Tail: Brown hackle barbs

Body: Peacock herl

Hackle: Brown hackle tied in by the lip,  
palmered over the body

Wing: Gray squirrel tail

Head: Peacock herl

## **“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 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 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.

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 (845) 758-9203

## **AND THE WINNER IS...**

**Vince DuBois won the October Meeting door prize** of 13 hand tied flies graciously prepared and donated by Wendy Neefus. It was a **free** door prize.

## **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, November 16, 2004 – **FREE “FLY” DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, December 21, 2004 – **FREE “FLY” DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**

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

**Chapter Officers**

President	Lynn Lee	(518) 828-5402	<a href="mailto:president@cgtu.org">president@cgtu.org</a>
Vice President	Hank Theiss	(518) 851-9442	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@cgtu.org">vicepresident@cgtu.org</a>
Secretary	Tim Lippert	(518) 239-8490	<a href="mailto:secretary@cgtu.org">secretary@cgtu.org</a>
Treasurer	Dave Rudloff	(518) 239-8397	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cgtu.org">treasurer@cgtu.org</a>

**Board of Directors**

Dick Riccio	Term ends 2004	(518) 851-7002	<a href="mailto:directors@cgtu.org">directors@cgtu.org</a>
Rick Bobrick	Term ends 2004	(518) 239-8443	<a href="mailto:directors@cgtu.org">directors@cgtu.org</a>
Vinny Sherburne	Term ends 2005	(518) 678-3174	<a href="mailto:directors@cgtu.org">directors@cgtu.org</a>
Paul Pysher	Term ends 2005	(845) 246-5246	<a href="mailto:directors@cgtu.org">directors@cgtu.org</a>
John Libruk	Term ends 2006	(518) 828-5694	<a href="mailto:directors@cgtu.org">directors@cgtu.org</a>
George Goth	Term ends 2006	(518) 622-0837	<a href="mailto:directors@cgtu.org">directors@cgtu.org</a>

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