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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

## COME AND LEARN TO TIE WET FLIES!

Long-time fly tyer, Bill Millard, will tie wet flies and share tying tips at our February meeting. Bill, a life-long friend of Don Traver, gave tying lessons at Don's Tackle for years, and has continued to teach for Vinny Sherburne, our fellow member and present owner of the newly named shop, Hudson Valley Angler, Inc., in Red Hook. At the next meeting all of you Sylvester Nemes' fans can learn more about wet flies from a tyer with a wealth of experience! Hank

## THIS QUILL IS NOT SWILL

Tom Emerick, the newly elected president of the Catskill Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited, was our guest at the last meeting. He did a fly tying demonstration of the Red Quill, Red Quill Parachute, and several other variations of those flies. He also tied an Early Brown Stonefly. For the Red Quill group he used quill that he stripped of all feathers and soaked in water for about a week. He indicated that there are various formulas used for the solution, but he uses plain water. Like many accomplished tyers, the scissors never left his hand until all the flies were tied, a feat that amazes me every time I see it.

At the completion of the presentation he had tied 10 flies, and he donated them all to the chapter to be used as a door prize at one of our meetings. That's a pretty generous gesture for a guy who had to eat Chinese food alone, because plans to meet friends at a local restaurant collapsed when he got there and discovered it was closed, and no one was there to help him get to our meeting. Tom, thanks for a terrific educational demonstration and for your generosity in donating the flies to our chapter. Dick

## BIG "THANK YOU!"s

We've got BIG "THANK YOU!"s for John La Rocca and Fran Martino. John put together a book entitled "A Year's Worth of Readings," a baker's dozen of stories, reflections and instruction, which includes newsletter articles from La Rocca's Corner and Hank's Fly Box.

Fran made the copies, courtesy of the Columbia County Land Conservatory, for us to hand out to the students in both the fly tying and fly fishing classes.

**Thanks again John and Fran!**

Hank

## **FLY TYERS “HOOKED” ON CLASS**

We have had a successful recruitment for the fly tying program. It began on February 13, 2005. There will be a total of 6 instructional sessions on Thursday nights. Nine interested students signed up for the class and they all showed up on time the first night despite severe fog in the area.

All went well as we had a planning meeting before the series began to get the materials ready for the six evenings. Fur, feathers, thread and other materials were stuffed into baggies of various sizes for each night. The students received the designated baggies and the revised instructional book for that first night as the class commenced.

The flies that are being taught this year are: Woolly Worm, Black Nose Dace, Green Caddis Larva, Gold Ribbed Hare’s Ear, Lead Wing Coachman, Partridge and Yellow, Brown Bi-visible, March Brown, Comparadun, Chernobyl Ant, Muddler Minnow...and Beadhead Pheasant Tail, if time permits.

Thanks to all the instructors and assistants who participated the first two evenings to get the program underway this year: George Goth, Dave Griffin, Lynn Lee, Tim Lippert, Wendy Neefus, Joe Reina, Hank Theiss, Dick Riccio, and Dave Rudloff.

Dick

## **CHAPTER ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO SHARE MATERIALS FOR FLY TYING CLASSES**

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** At our January meeting a motion was passed to encourage our members to share any **extra** tying materials they may have for our fly tying classes to save the chapter money. We can use any materials (including hooks) used to make the following flies: Woolly Worm, Black Nose Dace, Green Caddis Larva, Gold Ribbed Hare’s Ear, Lead Wing Coachman, Partridge and Yellow, Brown Bi-visible, March Brown, Comparadun, Chernobyl Ant, Muddler Minnow and Beadhead Pheasant Tail.

For our April 4<sup>th</sup> Cornell Cooperative Extension Fly Tying Class, we particularly need materials and hooks to tie the Woolly Worm and the Gold Ribbed Hare’s Ear...there could be as many as 20 people attending that class.

Hank

## **REMEMBER TO RE-MEMBER**

It has come to our attention that some of us (including me) have neglected to renew our membership in Trout Unlimited. There are several ways to join and I will attempt to explain them in simple terms.

First, let me tell you that there are a couple of categories of which you should be aware. You can follow the instructions to join depending on the category into which you fall.

Category A: If you have never joined TU you are considered a new member... and this is your group.

Category B: If you are, or have been a member at some time within the last 10 years, you will be considered a renewal member...and fall into this group.

Instructions for Category A group: There are quite a few folks who receive The Current, our chapter newsletter, by e-mail who have never joined Trout Unlimited. It is not necessary to join in order to receive it by e-mail, but if you are interested in the programs that TU supports and/or if you enjoy fishing, and/or if you enjoy the informality and camaraderie of small group meetings and social events, then it would be nice to have you as a member of our chapter. There is an introductory offer available to join for \$17.50...with no additional dues. You would be joining a national organization and would belong to a local chapter, hopefully ours.

This membership has the following benefits:

One-year subscription to TROUT magazine,  
(a quarterly filled with TU's conservation work and angling tips)  
Official TU membership card      TU calendar  
Local chapter membership      TU decal  
Personalized TU address labels      The Current (our monthly newsletter)  
Car rental and hotel discounts

<u>OTHER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:</u>	<u>1 YEAR</u>	<u>3 YEARS</u>	<u>LIFETIME</u>
New Member	\$ 17.50		
Renewal Member	\$ 35	\$ 90	\$1,000
Senior (62 or older)	\$ 20		
Family	\$ 50	\$100	\$1,100
Sponsor	\$100		
Business	\$200		
Conservator	\$250		

There are some added benefits at the more expensive levels of membership that can be viewed on the website or on the application. The introductory offer at \$17.50 is a bargain! In addition, you would be supporting the local chapter financially because we receive a rebate from the national organization for every new member who follows the instructions below to join:

Method 1: Call, write, e-mail, or see me in person for an application.

Dick Riccio, 203 Route 9H, Hudson, NY 12534, 518-851-7002, [membership@cgtu.org](mailto:membership@cgtu.org)

I will send one to you in the mail, so please remember to give me your full mailing address if you request one. It is self-explanatory and has a postage-free addressed mailing envelope attached, as well as additional information about the organization.

Method 2: Turn on the computer and go to [HTTP://www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro) this will take you to a website where you can sign up online with a credit card. It is pretty much self-explanatory but there is a section that states "Assign me to the following chapter (select one)"...scroll down the list. They are alphabetized by state. Select "Columbia-Greene RVW (NY 569)" by left clicking it. If you need assistance or if you have questions while filling out the online application, there is an 800-telephone number to call, as well as a TU e-mail address at the end of the application.

Instructions for Category B group: The same benefits listed above also apply to you. The membership levels are the same with the exception of the \$17.50 introductory offer.

Method 1: Same as Method 1 as previously mentioned.

Also, I always bring applications to the meetings and classes that we conduct.

Method 2: Complete the renewal information sent to you from TU National and return it to them.

Method 3: Fire up the old computer and go to [HTTP://WWW.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) Hold the pointer over Join/Renew and a drop-down menu will appear. Left click on "renew online" or one of the other selections. Complete the application and have your credit card handy. You will also need your TU ID# (which appears above your name on the mailing label of TROUT magazine and on your wallet-sized membership card.) If you run into a snag, there is assistance information at the end of the application that includes an 800 telephone number and a TU e-mail address. There are some additional benefits by renewing online. I did and received a \$30.00 discount from Orvis for a purchase of \$100.00 or more, good until 2-15-05. Check it out.

So, if you have never joined Trout Unlimited it is easy to do and this is a good time. Please give it some consideration. If you are a member, or if you think you are but membership has lapsed, it is also easy for you to renew. We would like to have you back in the group, so please check your status and renew soon.

One final note: We get a onetime rebate from the national organization for each new member signed up in the way I described above. Also, if anyone, new or renewal, is inclined to sign up at the more expensive levels, the rebate to our chapter increases depending on the level selected. These are the only ways that our chapter receives income from membership fees at this time.

Dick

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

With deep concern for recent world events this quote seems particularly appropriate at this time:

*Don't spend your time asking, "Why isn't the world a better place?" It will only be time wasted. The question to ask is, "How can I make it better?" To that there is an answer.*

LEO BUSCAGLIA

## **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      newsletter@cgtu.org

Hank Theiss (518) 851-9442      newsletter@cgtu.org

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

Travel – especially foreign travel – is a wonderful thing. It is exciting, gives you a sense of adventure, broadens your horizons, opens your eyes, humbles you sometimes...and for me, given my attachment to fishing, travel has another dimension in terms of the questions that run through my mind when on foreign soil.

### **WHAT'S IN THE WATER HERE?**

Nancy and I, and our son, daughter-in-law, and grandson just returned from a three-week visit to Tanzania. We spent most of our time in the area around Mount Kilimanjaro in the north part of the country where we visited with daughter-in-law Nina's family and extended family in a wonderful series of family gatherings, both formal (grandson Kibo's baptism) and informal (late evening suppers around Nina's mother's dinner table). Kibo is also the name of Kilimanjaro's highest, glacier-covered peak. The glacier, while melting at an historically alarming rate, still feeds streams and rivers with cold water that flows and falls through gorges that look like they would be home to trout and made for fishing. I did not fish but did learn that while there once were trout in the streams, they are gone now, at least gone from the streams in the area in which we were based. My son Mark told me that on one of his earlier visits he met and conversed with a Greek expatriate who lived in the area and had fished for the trout of the local rivers years before, but the fish had disappeared. The water still looked beautiful on the one local river we got really close to: cold, discolored by glacial till, and flowing in riffles, pockets and deep holes. At the one deep hole, to which we were drawn, a couple dozen local boys swam and jumped from the ledges; they swarmed around Mark fascinated by his digital camera and its capacity to generate an instant image. No one was fishing.

Early in the trip we stayed for a few days in Dar es Salam, a bustling city on the Indian Ocean, and the center of commerce for the country. In Dar we lodged at a tiny bed-and-breakfast-type hotel right on the water, and I watched each day at low tide as local fishermen dragged a huge hand net through the tidal flats. They were too far away to see what they brought in, but the creatures, whatever they were, had to be small. A few days into our city stay we were treated to lunch by Nina's brother-in-law, John Martin, at a yacht club in which he is a member. On the clubhouse wall was the record of the offshore sport fishing expeditions that are mounted from the club. The fish shown in the lists were not small: barracuda, tuna, sailfish. John said that he fished with regularity from the club, but had never landed a record fish...but they are clearly out there.

When my daughter, Beth, was a senior in high school we hosted an exchange student from Brazil; Helen and Beth got to be like sisters and still are. We have stayed in close touch with Helen (in fact, she'll be visiting us again in a couple of weeks), and a couple of years ago were invited to her wedding in a small city about two hours west of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Helen's family's home is on a small lake, and her father, Edison, is a fisherman. One evening the women of both families went into town to shop for the necessities of the wedding and Edison and I went to the lake's edge to fish. Edison produced a couple of lawn chairs, a plastic pail full of bedding and little white grubs, and telescoping steel rods with small hooks. We settled in for a few hours of fishing and conversing with our Portuguese-English dictionary passed back and forth between us. We caught tiny sunfish-like fish, and Edison told me to be alert because sometimes when he

hooked these little fish they were attacked by a fish whose name in the dictionary translated to pickerel or pike! Not that day.

While Mark was at Cornell he spent a year in Seville, Spain and we visited him and his host family, again over a Christmas holiday. There were three young men in the family, and Mark still keeps up with them; their Dad, a banker by profession, was also a trout fisherman. The language barrier was evident, but I figured out that he fished streams in the mountains of Spain using spinning gear and C.P. Swings and caught the same brown trout that were transplanted to our country so many years ago. For a while after that trip I would send Carmen copies of the Orvis catalogue and even a couple of the early stories that I wrote. We have lost touch a bit, but I understand from Mark that his “brothers” Dad has retired. I hope he is fishing more than he did back then; maybe I need to rekindle an old friendship.

This travel thing for me goes way back. When I was 14 my Dad arranged for me to spend a summer with an old friend of his who had taken up residence in Costa Rica. I lived in San Jose that summer and helped George and “Reddie” Bowman in their small but successful businesses. San Jose is 5,000 feet in elevation, and like Kilimanjaro, Costa Rica’s famous volcano, Irazu and its related highlands, spawn a number of rivers that hold transplanted rainbows and allow for a thriving whitewater rafting business. I didn’t fish or raft during that summer. A dozen years ago we returned to Costa Rica with four of our dear friends on the occasion of our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries. As part of that vacation we had a few days on the Pacific Ocean and one day chartered a small boat with a barefoot captain who took us out to fish. We saw a huge fish at one point under the boat, and armed with a spinning rod baited with a piece of plastic straw over a bare hook, my long-time fishing buddy, Tom, caught what I think was an albacore tuna.

So these aren’t much in the way of fishing stories you are thinking...sorry. They are little vignettes (a favorite word of mine) tucked into larger memories of places a long way from home that add - for me - to that broadening horizon that comes from visits to foreign soil. Maybe next time I’ll get more systematic about it and try to arrange something more significant in the way of fishing. Last May, while working London, I bought an English trout fishing book with lots of information about places to fish. Well, it’s a start!

## **HANK'S FLY BOX – Sulfur Emerger**

What is the difference between a pale evening dun and a pale morning dun? I have recently been researching emergers in general and have come to the conclusion that a large percentage of flies become trapped in the nymphal shuck. As a result, trout key on these easy meals often hitting the struggling fly before trying to take the dun that will fly off at any second.

The group of mayflies that fly fishermen know as “sulfurs” are in the genus *Ephemerella*: *Ephemerella rotunda*, *invaria*, *septentrionalis* and *dorothea*. According to [American Angler](#), July/August 2001, the sulfur hatches begin in the East during early to mid May. The *E. rotunda* is the first to appear, about the second week of May. A little later that month *E. invaria* and *E. septentrionalis* emerge. Finally, in early June the smaller *E. dorothea* will appear. I believe this is the sulfur I notice most often.

In the East sulfurs are often called pale evening duns, but out West when my son and I fished Montana they called them pale morning duns or PMDs. The colors and shades vary from region to region and stream to stream, so check your home waters. Following is the recipe I use for the Sulfur Emerger...it is similar to the one on page 36 of the American Angler article:

#### SULFUR EMERGER

Hook: Dry fly - size 14, 16 and 18	Abdomen: Brown and sulfur dubbing mix 50/50
Thread: Orange	Ribbing: Yellow thread
Wing Post: Medium dun poly yarn	Hackle: Medium brown
Tails: Short clump of wood duck fibers	Thorax: Yellow dubbing

## AND THE WINNER IS...

**Dave Rudloff won the January meeting door prize** of 13 hand-tied flies skillfully prepared and donated by Wendy Neefus. It was a **free** door prize.

Our thanks again to Wendy for another generous donation. **Those wishing to donate flies or other door prizes for the free monthly drawings should contact Dick Riccio.**

## C-GTU MEETINGS

**EVERY MONTH:** Our regularly scheduled meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. **at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building on Mountain Road in Cairo, NY**, the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except July and August) unless otherwise indicated.

**THIS MONTH:** Tuesday, February 15, 2005 – Bill Millard will tie wet flies.  
**FREE DOOR PRIZE DRAWING.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 15, 2005 – **FREE DOOR PRIZE DRAWING.**

#### 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)**