
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

RETURN OF A MASTER FLY TYER

Bill Millard gave me another great recipe for the Little Black Caddis...you will find it in this month's FLY BOX. It is easy and quick to tie and is very appropriate for this time of year. On May 17th Bill will again be at our TU meeting to pass along several little tricks to make one's flies look better and tie easier. These are the flies he plans to demonstrate at that time: Little Black Caddis, Pheasant Tail Nymph, No Hackle Fly, Caddis Pupa with Uni-Flexx, Wet Flies with Uni-Flexx, Stonefly with Uni-Flexx, and Ribbed Stonefly.

Come and learn to tie from "a master."

Hank

“IT’S ALL ABOUT SEX”

“It’s all about sex,” says Gerry Austin as he describes turkey hunting. Toms and hens want to find each other, so the hunter plays one part to attract the mate. Gerry, an expert turkey hunter and call-maker, spoke to the chapter at our April meeting in Cairo. He has hunted turkeys on Greene’s wooded slopes as well as fields east of the Hudson River. He much prefers the latter, saying that it makes more sense to patiently call and to watch a tom come toward you through a field than to be surprised by one popping out from behind a nearby tree in the woods.

Decoys can help to get the bird closer to you than 50 yards, especially if you put out a jake (young male) decoy that will annoy any tom worth his salt. Gerry says that half the fun of hunting turkeys is just watching them poke around as they cautiously move toward you...but spook the bird and he’ll fly away at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour!

The former game warden stressed that patience is the premier trait of the successful turkey hunter. “Pick a good spot and stay there,” he said. In fact, the ability to sit still and wait is much more important than the calling. Just a few calls should do it, said Gerry, and even the quality of the call may not be that important. He has heard turkeys answer an ambulance siren!

Other than the shotgun...and Gerry says that any bore and any load will do nicely...the turkey call is the most important piece of equipment in the field and is used to imitate the clucks and sounds of the birds. He brought three types of calls: the box-type, bone-type and slate-type.

Boxes are thin-sided and make a turkey sound when a thin piece of wood or piece of slate is rubbed across the open top or a stylus is scraped across the box’s lid. Gerry also brought a 4-inch turtle shell that he had fashioned into a slate call. The other type of call is made from the wing bones of a turkey, preferably a hen, for a higher pitched sound. When assembled, the user sucks in quickly to produce a squawk.

Gerry makes and sells both types of calls on Ebay. Our thanks to him for providing an enjoyable evening and sharing a number of great hints about hunting turkeys. Dave Griffin

FISHING COURSE “HOOKS” 10

The fishing class was another success this year! We “hooked” 10 students through the use of most of the local media despite the fact that the Columbia-Greene Community College brochure, which also announces the class, seemed late this year. Upon further investigation it was determined that this year the class actually started earlier in March than it did last year, which may account for us thinking that the brochure was delayed.

At any rate, we had a mix of folks from both counties, including 1 woman. The skill levels varied from no experience to substantial fly-fishing background. Those who were experienced basically wanted to upgrade their skills and learn some new techniques. Due to the smaller size, it was a more intimate group than we’ve had in the immediate past and there was no need to split into two sections. This turned out to be a bonus for the instructors who were also able to attend and participate in the classroom part of the course. Many of us who normally would have been in the gym teaching fly casting, learned a lot about entomology, knots, dry as well as wet fly fishing, and other aspects of the sport.

The course was well attended by C-G TU instructors and the following folks deserve a well earned “thank you” for their continuing efforts to make this a worthwhile and educational project for our chapter: Lynn Lee, Hank Theiss, Dave Rudloff, Wendy Neefus, George Goth, John Libruk, Bobby Fisher, Joe Reina, Tim Lippert, Rick Bobrick, Justin Seeley, Dick Riccio and Dave Griffin...who also single-handedly revised his fly-fishing instruction book which is another helpful written guideline for the course. Dick

THE MAY/JUNE C-G TU SCHEDULE

May 7 – Saturday **Students’ Day on the Stream**

PLACE: Routes 23 and 23A, at the ballpark parking lot

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LUNCH PROVIDED by the chapter.

May 21 – Saturday **Greene County Shad Festival**

PLACE: Catskill Point

TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FLY-TYING AND CASTING DEMONSTRATIONS

May 29 – Sunday **Columbia Land Conservancy Shad Festival**

PLACE: Clum and Patchen Farm, Livingston

TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

FLY-TYING AND CASTING DEMONSTRATIONS

June 4 – Saturday **Olana Fly-Tying Demonstration and Casting Lessons**

PLACE: Olana Pond

TIME: 12:00 Noon

FROM THE EDITORS: THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“If indeed you be an angler, join us and welcome, for then it is known to you that no man is in perfect condition to enjoy scenery unless he have a fly rod in his hand and a fly-book in his pocket.”

WILLIAM C. PRIME

Thanks to Ron Urban for including this quote in an email.

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

Tenmile Creek was a raging torrent of water, the color of the last two ounces of a glass of chocolate milk that had not been stirred well. Out across the hayfield, opposite our new home, I could hear big rocks banging down the bed of the normally tiny rill that runs through the area we call “the hollow” at the edge of our small woodlot. The water carrying those rocks was racing toward a confluence with Squirmer Valley Creek (a name you will only find on a topo map) and then on to the Catskill, which poured over Route 145 that night. It was a couple of days after opening day of trout season.

REASSURANCE

I worked in Trenton on April 5th and the mighty Delaware had flooded the edge of the downtown area, and even though the flood had ebbed, roads were closed and water was spraying up through the cobblestone streets a half mile from the river. That evening after a long ride home I met a friend from our local Trout Unlimited chapter at the closest gas station to our homes, and we exchanged greetings over the pump. “Been out?” I asked. “Why bother?” came the response, and continued, “Geez, sixty dollars to fill up this truck!” It has been years since I have actually fished on the opening day of trout season. During that period there have been a few opening days when a trout fisherman could safely get to the water if he or she ventured out...and maybe even get a couple of fish...but most years in our area, especially if you are a flyrodder, “Why bother?” is the more operative approach. One might better spend their time tying up a few more isonychia if they still have hooks and thread after a long winter...and if they tied flies.

Like “catch and release” and tackle and techniques, many of us have evolved in terms of our approach to opening day. The first one that I remember was a “second Saturday in April” (still the case in New Jersey if I am not mistaken) on the Hackensack River in Rivervale, NJ. The three La Rocca brothers were up at dawn, fully dressed and “booted up” (which had a very different meaning back then), and waiting in the driveway for Dad to drive us to the water. While he was always, it seemed, happy to drive us to our fishing, he just did not believe that we needed to be there that early...especially since the season did not commence until 8:00 a.m., when someone, literally, sounded the Rivervale Firehouse siren. When we arrived at the stream at about 7:30 a.m. there was barely room in the parking lot for Dad to turn around. On arrival at the river’s edge we found the banks lined with other guys...all guys then...and there were no spots vacant at the good holes and runs. As it turned out, it did not matter much; there were so many stocked trout in so many places along the stream that we all caught fish.

Some years later when at least one of us had a driver’s license and we’d “graduated” to the Flatbrook in Sussex County we left home so early on opening day that we would find only one or two cars parked along Route 206 when we arrived at the bridge over the stream. The Flatbrook was always cold on the

second Saturday in April; hard-packed crystal snow was piled in the hemlocks that lined the stream above the 206 Bridge. The deep run that flowed under the bridge was prime water, and I remember brother Paul wading up under the bridge a full hour before 8:00 a.m. and anchoring the line of anglers who, by starting time when some self-appointed “warden” announced “Eight o’clock!” would be elbow to elbow. As always, Paul caught fish.

Thirty or so years ago, when the Tenmile in Medusa was fast becoming my home water, I was still at least semi-sleepless on the evening of March 31st and for a couple of years running would fish the creek the next morning with Bob and Dutch. We’d scramble down to the water below Rensselaerville through a cut in the steep hillside in an area Dutch called “the junk pile”. On arrival at the bottom of the hill we would almost always find the creek high but clear and very cold, and Dutch would invariably announce, “It’s too cold; the ice is still on Myosotis. Shouldn’t fish this creek till the ice goes out.” Then he would proceed to catch a half dozen brown trout while Bob and I would be numb-fingered and skunked. Once I stood on a gravel bar blowing on my fingers when Bob came up from downstream and we exchanged that “haven’t had a bump all morning” look. Then, catching movement forty yards upstream, we watched Dutch tense up momentarily and set the hook on yet another trout. Bob gave me a nudge and told me...as if I did not already know...”That Dutch, he could catch ‘em on dry land.”

Opening day for me this year was April 11th, earlier than most recent years, and a week after the floods. Tom and I ventured out for something less than two hours in mid-afternoon on the lower Tenmile. The day was warm and sunny, the water was still a bit high and definitely still off color...an occasional caddis and mayfly fluttered in the air above the surface...and it was just great to be out. The flood had once again rearranged the stream a little. Tom hiked up before starting to fish and I immediately began to cover the water he was passing by. By the time we met in the middle he had picked up one healthy foot-long brown and I, fishing a Woolly Bugger, was fishless. Just before we met I had switched to a Beadhead Prince and, as Tom approached the run I was fishing, I hooked and landed a fish that he said was the twin of his. I released the trout and together we headed toward the truck. We fished one more stretch where I’d had a nudge on the way up, and in that run I got another healthy, heavy, 12 inch brown. It was a very nice opening.

That evening I called brother Steve to share, as is our habit. He had spent a little time on the Amawalk and the Titicus, his home waters, and had caught a few fish. It was likely more than a few, but Steve is ever the understated fellow. He had also lost a very good fish in an “under the bridge pool” where the environment is not your classic trout stream locale. “But,” he said, “They are always there. At the start of another season, a lost big one in a place like that is kind of reassuring.” I had had the same feeling earlier in the day. All is definitely not right with the world, but our home waters seem to be okay. I can’t wait to get on them again.

AND THE APRIL WINNER IS...

...Dave Rudloff who won the FREE door prize of flies tied and donated by Bill Millard.

Those wishing to donate flies or other door prizes for the free monthly drawings should contact Dick Riccio.

HANK'S FLY BOX – Bill Millard's Little Black Caddis



MATERIALS:

HOOK: Mustad 3906 (no B) 14 to 18

THREAD: Black 8/0 or 10/0

BODY: Black feather from Marabou

WING: Black deer hair (cut to even)

HACKLE: Black saddle hackle
(cut off under body)

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP #1: Place hook in vise, start thread at 4/5's mark and wrap back to hook point...
NO further!

STEP #2: Tie on the smallest amount of Marabou off side of a plume.
Wrap it around the hook up to 1/8 inch behind eye of hook.

STEP #3: Cut hairs from a black deer tail, (sparse). Tie on in front of the body...softly,
don't flare them out).

STEP #4: Make them come **just** past the hook bend.

STEP #5: Select a black saddle hackle (not larger than top of wing). Make 2 or 3 wraps around
hook and tie it off. Make a thread head and whip finish it off.

Remember that these caddis have the smallest of bodies and a wing twice as long as the body.

Bill, thanks again for another useful and easy-to-tie recipe!

Hank

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 has changed their email address or 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

C-GTU MEETINGS

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

THIS MONTH: Tuesday, May 17, 2005–FREE DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 21, 2005 **at Cairo CCEGC**–FREE DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

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

Board of Directors

Vinny Sherburne	Term ends 2005	(518) 678-3174	directors@cgtu.org
Paul Pysher	Term ends 2005	(845) 246-5246	directors@cgtu.org
John Libruk	Term ends 2006	(518) 828-5694	directors@cgtu.org
George Goth	Term ends 2006	(518) 622-0837	directors@cgtu.org
Dick Riccio	Term ends 2007	(518) 851-7002	directors@cgtu.org
Rick Bobrick	Term ends 2007	(518) 239-8443	directors@cgtu.org

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