
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

“A BIG THANK YOU!”

After receiving an email from Ron Urban, our state chairman, about a brand new DVD that he recommended dealing with both fly fishing and fly tying I contacted Tightline Productions LLC in Califon, NJ and spoke with Joan Flagler. I gave Joan some details about our TU group and she very generously offered to donate two signed DVDs titled “Practical Fly Patterns That Catch Trout with Charles Meck and Eric Stroup, Volumes 1 & 2,” for us to use at our March fundraising banquet. Hopefully we will purchase copies to include in our chapter lending library.

I am looking forward to being able to review these 2 DVDs myself. They are \$24.95 a piece or \$39.99 for both, and include 18 patterns and several on-stream fishing demonstrations. For more information please go to www.tightlinevideo.com or call 1-800-338-9052. When ordering your personal copy, please remember to thank Joan and Tightline Productions for their generosity to our TU Chapter.

Hank

CAPTURING IMAGES AS WELL AS TROUT

Our June meeting featured noted fishing guide and insect photographer extraordinaire John Miller. If you missed this impressive power point presentation, you missed stunning photos of the prolific hatches of the Delaware River system and the robust rainbows that fell prey to their imitations. All phases and stages of mayflies were depicted, including rare images of ovipositing mayflies. If you've ever tried to capture a mayfly for streamside examination, you can appreciate the great lengths that John has taken to be able to accurately depict these delicate specimens. Be on the lookout for John's work to be featured in several upcoming publications.

Justin

“THE FLY BOYS” ARE MAKING IT BIG TIME!

Little did we know in 2004 when Curtis Rist brought his two sons, Edwin (now 17) and Anton (now 13) to our fly fishing classes through CGCC that “the boys” would return there to display and present flies and photos of their beautiful hand-tied Atlantic Salmon flies.

On **Thursday, September 7th**, Edwin and Anton will present a fly-tying demonstration and display **at the college** that most, if not all, of our local fly tyers will envy. Please stop by **between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.** I know you will enjoy the unbelievable work that the young “Fly Boys” accomplished. I have had the opportunity to see the digital photograph of Evangeline, Jungle Crow IV, and Paradise...and am very impressed...you will be too!

Hank

TENMILE CREEK'S FUTURE IN JEOPARDY

I first discovered the wonders of fishing the Tenmile Creek in 1978. I have spent numerous days of enjoyment fishing this jewel of a natural fishery. The stream had taken on an almost human nature to me, so much that I refer to it as a "friend." Today my friend is in trouble. The flooding in this valley over the past decade has virtually eliminated the efforts of DEC in the 1960's to shore up areas prevalent to erosion. The pool diggers placed for the improvement of the habitat of the fishery are also gone. I felt morally obligated to take on this project and so my efforts began this April. I will attempt to bring interested parties of our chapter up to date as to how this project is proceeding.

My first call was to Dan Zielinski of DEC to ask him for an update as to what efforts have been made to begin this project of fixing the damage. Dan was very much informed of the damage caused to the stream. He also admitted that DEC was possibly negligent in not providing an ongoing maintenance program over the years to help prevent just exactly what has happened. Later in the conversation he advised me that a permit to fix the damage had already been filed back in the fall of 2005. The permit was still active and remains as such to this day. All of my questions seemed to be directed back to one individual, Walt Bennett. It was Walt who had done all of the work to complete the permit. Dan suggested that I call Walt for updated information.

I called Walt in order to get the background information that would bring us up to date. It was the first of many phone calls that continues to be an ongoing project. Walt had in fact completed the permit and had contacted the landowners along the effected areas of the stream. He told me that in addition to filing the permit, he had received a pledge for the funding, principally from FEMA. Suffice to say that after hurricane Katrina the funding is now very suspect. Walt has continued to work to find funding and has had limited success to date.

This continues to be a project of evolution. I have followed one lead after another constantly shifting to yet other leads as they develop. Walt has contacted numerous parties of interest to this project: the landowners, Greene County Soil & Water, the Town of Durham, TU and many others. One of the most important contacts has been a landowner most seriously affected by the erosion of the stream just north of her property. Joanne Schindleheim contacted Walt seeking help regarding her concerns. Since purchasing her property, the stream has changed its course and has eroded five feet of her property for each of the past few years. Walt found a publication that cited the Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife as a potential source of funding for such projects. With Joanne's help they were contacted and on the 5th of July, two members of Fish and Wildlife came down to view the problem. C-G TU was well represented with nine members participating in the stream walk. It was later commented that the people from Fish and Wildlife were very impressed by our show of support.

The effort of the stream walk did not result in any immediate funding. It was later discovered that the publication was in error on the statement of some 25 million dollars being available for such projects. They did however estimate the cost of repairing the damage above Joanne's property to \$ 500,000. Earlier this month, I received a call from Joanne stating that Fish and Wildlife called her to say that they would be willing to help find the funding for the project. She

continues to contact all interested parties and will be presenting her case to a future meeting with the Town of Durham.

In another development Walt said that the Town of Durham has committed heavy equipment and manpower. They are also in the process of applying for a permit with the state in order to do the work. Walt has also talked to the Boy Scouts and the Department of Corrections to donate manpower to cleanup the debris along the stream. I believe that the local TU chapters would also be interested in doing the same.

As I mentioned earlier, this is a project that continues to evolve and will more than likely take many years to be completed. I feel that our first positive break has been the stated help from Fish and Wildlife to help find the funding. Walt and I continue to find other parties of interest to support this project. I will also contact other sources: Clearwater Chapter of TU, and Albany County Soil and Water to try and get their support since a major portion of this problem is in Albany County. It has also been discussed to try and file for assistance from TU's "Embrace a Stream" grant.

This concludes my current update on a very complicated project. As mentioned, things change and develop constantly. I ask any TU member that has any other ideas towards this project to contact me. I will provide updates as they develop.

Sincerely, Bob Novak

(518) 758-8140

Visit us at <http://cgtu.org/> for upcoming events.

Please join us at the Tuesday, September 19th TU meeting.

Bob Novak and John LaRocca plan to give a power point presentation on the Tenmile Creek.

C-G TU COMMUNITY SERVICE

This summer our chapter has been active with a couple of demonstrations at public events. We were represented on Friday, June 28th at the Greene County Youth Fair and then again on August 5th at the Olana State Historic Site. Fly tying, fly-casting demonstrations, and fly-casting participation were on the program for the fair. At Olana, fly tying, fly casting, and an environmental program, including insect gathering and identification, were the primary presentations. Fair visitors included some old friends like Sean Dewey, now a NYS Environmental Conservation Officer and former member of our chapter, and Ralph Irving (another "Dewey") who stopped by to chat.

The Wooly Worm seems to be the fly of choice to demonstrate since it was tied at both venues. Our banners were used for both locations to identify and promote our organization. In addition, TU applications and promotional material were on display and available for interested individuals.

Many thanks go out to the volunteers and friends from our chapter who represent TU and participate in these public services. Some of these folks represented us at both events. This year

our volunteers were: Ron Baumann, George Goth, Fran Martino, Bill Newcomb, Dave Rudloff, Hank Theiss, Dick Riccio. Also, we send a special thanks to Bob Story who helped get us setup and kept us informed at the Youth Fair. Dick

HANK'S FLY BOX – Copper Core Pheasant Tail Nymph

We are always happy to put favorite recipes of our members in the “Fly Box”. This month Dave Turco submitted the fly. Thanks for the unique tying method of the Pheasant Tail Nymph, Dave We’re never too old to learn a new trick!

COPPER CORE PHEASANT TAIL NYMPH (English Version of our recipe)

Hook: Heavy Wire Regular Shank, 1x or 2x long, size 20 – 10

Thread: Brown

Abdomen: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Weight: Copper Wire as thread

Wing Case & Legs: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Tail: Pheasant Tail Fibers

Thorax: Peacock Herl

Rib: Fine Copper Wire

Use copper wire as thread and start behind the eye and wrap back to bend of the hook leaving a tag of about 2 inches. Tag will later become the rib.

For the tail: Stroke 3-5 pheasant tail fibers so they are perpendicular to the quill and clip. Tie in with copper wire. Once secure lift the pheasant tail fibers and spiral wire forward to a little past mid-shank.

For the abdomen: Wrap the pheasant tail fibers forward to a little past mid-shank.

For the segmentation: Make 5 evenly spaced wraps of the copper wire up to the end of the abdomen and tie in. Wraps should always be in opposite directions. Cut excess wire rib.

For the wing case: Stroke and cut about 12 pheasant tail fibers as described above. Measure them as follows: if you want the legs longer, measure the tail feather the full length of the hook; if you want them shorter measure only the length of the shank. Securely tie in at the front of the abdomen. Cut off the butt end and the copper wire.

Start thread now and wrap back to the front of the abdomen.

For the thorax: Tie in peacock hurl. A good tip is to wrap the herl around the thread and then wrap both forward and tie off the peacock herl. Also, the end of the peacock hurl is brittle and will snap easily, break this off before pulling on the feather. Tie in just behind the eye.

Finish the wing case: Lightly pull the pheasant feather over the thorax (too much tension is not good for the longevity of the fly) and tie in well. Pull 3 – 5 fibers to the left side and tie them in; do the same for the right side pulling the legs back and tying everything in.

Using a little moisture stroke back the thorax and wing case and build a thread head.

Whip finish and apply a small amount of head cement.

FROM THE EDITORS: Hank's Thought for the Month

The Montana State Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising hikers, hunters and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for grizzly bear while in Yellowstone Park and surrounding areas.

They advise people to wear low noise-producing devices such as little bells on their clothing to alert but not startle the grizzly bears unexpectedly. They also advise carrying pepper spray in case of an encounter with a grizzly bear.

It is also a good idea to watch for fresh signs of grizzly activity. People should recognize the difference between small, young grizzly and large, adult grizzly droppings. Young droppings are smaller and contain fish bones, possibly bird feathers, and small mammal fur. Adult grizzly droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper spray.

From Gary LaFontaine's "THE BOOK MAILER NEWSLETTER" Fall 2004

TROUT BROOKS & TROUT BOOKS:

A Look Into Justin's Bookcase

A recent conversation with book dealer Dave Foley brought to my attention that the beloved Antrim Lodge in Roscoe suffered yet another setback in its rebirth when it was severely damaged by fire. This sent me to the bookshelves to reread some of the passages celebrating the storied gathering place. Some of the best passages can be found in Dana Lamb's Where the Pools are Bright and Deep (Winchester, 1973). Lamb praises the Antrim as a place where "Morgan partners, artists, railroad engineers, sportsmen, bums, ambassadors, industrialists and politicians of renown wolfed luscious, tender sirloin steaks, drank deep, told lies about their trophies of the angle or the chase and, in the evening, came alive."

Some of the stories in Where the Pools are Bright and Deep may have had their beginnings around the Antrim's mahogany bar as conversations about the places and people Lamb came to know through his fishing travels.

So, after the damage of years of vacancy, several floods, and now a fire, we will have to wait longer for the chance to continue the angling dialogue from the Antrim's well-worn stools. Until then, we have the works of authors like Dana Lamb to link us to the past.

FROM THE EDITORS: Dick's Chuckle for the Month

FROM THE INTERNET...

Bill and Frank rent a boat and go fishing. They catch a lot of fish and return to the shore. Bill says to the Frank, "I hope you marked the spot where we caught all those fish." Frank replies, "Yes, I marked an 'X' on the side of the boat to mark the spot."

Bill says to Frank sharply, "You idiot. How do you know we'll get the same boat?"

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

The past spring, at least the mid and late spring, was just a wonderful trout fishing time. It rained hard for a couple of days and then it stopped...and then it rained hard again and then it stopped. The ground was often saturated, and that meant that while the trout streams would get high and roily often and quickly, it also meant that they would stay up a little longer even after the soil color had flushed from their depths. Air temperatures warmed. There is no better combination for an East Coast trout fisherman than lots of warming water that's a bit off color. On second thought, there is one thing better, at least for me: I made time to fish.

FISHING WITH THE DOCS

In addition to my brothers, I have two long-time fishing buddies. I've known both for more than thirty years; both have lived nearby for many years. One now calls the other side of the country home but gets back with some regularity to the first home he maintains in Medusa. If I added up all the fishing days spent with each of them it would likely come out pretty even; for different stretches of years the tally would be quite uneven because the two of them have moved about the country a bit. With one I've fished for trout almost exclusively in New York State; with the other I've fished in New York but also in some western waters. Both these fellows have doctoral degrees – Ph.D.s; neither of them uses the title much, if at all; and while fishing with them is sometimes a study in contrast, it is always a learning experience.

I have always had great admiration for anyone who's earned a doctorate. They are invariably very bright folks. Almost always they have, either in their genes or learned, an analytic bent: their powers of observation are keen and practiced: they can look at a situation, inventory what they see, weigh what comes into view along with and in connection to what they have seen before; set a course of action in response; and go to it. I am sure someone – likely a Ph.D. candidate – has studied the personal characteristics of folks who achieved a doctoral degree, and one quality I am sure they found was a constellation of determination, "stick-to-it-ness," and focus. One needs those characteristics in the pursuit of learning at the highest levels. These same characteristics, it seems to me, serve one well on a trout stream, and that may be one explanation why both my pals are good fly fishermen.

As I noted, I managed to fish a bit more this spring than in the last few years, and my outings included my aforementioned friends on at least a couple of occasions. With friend "One" I fished the Tenmile and the Catskill, and as usual really enjoyed the trips. Also as usual I caught far fewer fish than my pal...even though I did pretty well. These trips reinforced a couple of points that I'd experienced for years fishing with him...points about where to fish and fly selection. For years when we'd fish together I'd find myself noticing that I was fishing in water that did not look quite like the water that he was fishing. Friend "One", I've decided, is really an expert on what is referred to as "reading the water." I can do it reasonably well now, but there are still times when I'll look at the creek, decide on a piece of water to fish, cast and drift and cast and drift, and come up empty. Then while moving on to the next stretch I'll look over my shoulder and notice that the water I'd just fished really did not look very trouty after all. It has

taken a long time, but there are far fewer instances now than in the past when I wonder whether I am fishing in the right spot...credit "One."

"One" also has great faith in the old standby, the tried and true, the proven fly patterns; and he sticks with them in most instances. We do not dry-fly fish as much as we'd like to, so this is mostly about nymph fishing and nymphs. This characteristic of "One" is not something to which I've really subscribed. On our trips this spring I'd be twitching Woolly Buggers and "big ugly" Stoneflies directly upstream or swinging some contraption or combination of flies like an old time wet...and catching some fish. I'd look upstream and "One" would be high stick dead drifting a Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail through a run and catching fish. When he'd look up and see my tactics he'd close his eyes, lower his head slightly and slowly shake it from side to side in a universal gesture: "I don't believe it and will you ever learn?" Early in our fishing time together "One" might have said something; certainly he'd respond if I asked the "what are you using question;" now he knows I'm having fun, and so be it.

I fished far less with friend "Two" this spring but it was the first time we'd gotten together on the water in a couple of years. "Way back when" we would venture forth, usually close to home, but the last few times we'd fished it had been "out west." "Two" has fished extensively on some pretty fabled waters; the first time he fishes one of these rivers it will often be with a guide. He is a great learner. The result is that "Two" has learned a wide variety of tactics and techniques, is a studied and efficient caster, and can explain effectively what to do and how to do it. That trait may be inherited, but it is not widely dispersed in the general population. (Years ago, when I fancied myself a golfer, there was only one person I ever played with who could explain the mechanics of a swing in words that registered with me. On further consideration, maybe that's more about me than them!) In any event, "Two" can do that; perhaps it is learned behavior based on more than a few hours in drift boats with professionals.

Beyond technical tactics and techniques, my spring trip with "Two" reinforced some advice and lessons he'd shared very early in our fishing friendship and are illustrative of that focus and determination to which I referred earlier. The day we fished was chosen well in advance because he knew he would be in the area on business, actually in Ithaca on business. I had earlier offered to show him some of the "gorge water" that I had fished - often with "One" or my brother - when I was at Cornell. Typical of this spring, the water in the gorge was a bit high and cloudy and the sky - what you can see of it in the narrow slot between the gorge walls - threatened rain. "Two" loved it and settled into a big pool and fished and fished - doggedly, I thought - until he'd landed a really good brown. Years before, in a canoe on an Adirondack lake, I'd given up after a couple of hours of fruitless casting. I offered to paddle while "Two" continued to fish. His advice then, certainly not new and certainly not in any words that had not been spoken countless times before, was, "You know, Elf, you can't catch fish if your lure is not in the water!"...whereupon, on his next cast, he hooked and landed the best brookie of our trip. I fished the gorge more diligently that day with "Two" than I probably ever have.

I like fishing with these guys...they are good at it, they teach without overtly doing so, I learn, and we have fun. And doctoral degrees aside, they are regular guys...who occasionally suffer the fate that befalls us all in our quest for trout. Both "One" and "Two" fell in the creek at the conclusion of one of our joint expeditions!

THE CURRENT ON“LINE”

**IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS AND RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER BY MAIL
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
Justin Seeley (518) 537-4685

Email addresses can be found on the Web Page at <http://cgtu.org/> on the “Contact Us” page.

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.

MEETING THIS MONTH: Tuesday, September 19, 2006

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 17, 2006

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

Chapter Officers

President	Hank Theiss	(518) 851-9442	Email - See “Contact Us” Page, President http://cgtu.org/
Vice President	Joe Reina	(518) 701-3640	Email - See “Contact Us” Page, Vice President http://cgtu.org/
Secretary	Justin Seeley	(518) 537-4685	Email - See “Contact Us” Page, Secretary http://cgtu.org/
Treasurer	Dave Rudloff	(518) 239-8397	Email - See “Contact Us” Page, Treasurer http://cgtu.org/

Board of Directors

Dick Riccio	Term ends 2007	(518) 851-7002	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/
Rick Bobrick	Term ends 2007	(518) 239-8443	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/
John La Rocca	Term ends 2008	(518) 239-6786	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/
Wendy Neefus	Term ends 2008	(518) 828-6645	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/
John Libruk	Term ends 2009	(518) 828-5694	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/
Dave Turco	Term ends 2009	(518) 851-7931	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/
Lynn Lee	Ex officio	(518) 828-5402	Email - See Contact Us Page, Directors http://cgtu.org/

KEEP CURRENT...WITH THE CURRENT!

Dick Riccio, Hank Theiss & Justin Seeley (Editors)

