

The RollCast

The eNews Letter of Cape Cod TU Chapter 460

May 2011



www.capecodtu.org

EVENTS

General Meeting

Speaker will be Dean Clark from Stripers Forever will talk about their important conservation work.

Liberty Hall Marstons Mills May 11, 7:pm.

Come on out for this last meeting of the season.

Spring Fly Fishing School is May 13-15.

This year looks to be a great camp as there are more than 20 students signed up!! With this high enrollment Tim will need a lot of help. If you can make any time to help that weekend contact Tim Lynch @ cctuflyfish@comcast.net and let him know when you can help out.

We are planning to have the September meeting be a picnic outing again. Look for details later this summer.

Spring Fund Raiser

There was a small but enthusiastic group that attended the Spring fundraising event on the 17th of April. Everyone had a great meal and there were plenty of great prizes. A word of thanks for there donations to Bruce Zeller from Fishing the Cape, Eastman's, The Powder Horn, Orvis Outlet Mashpee, On The Water, Marla Blair. Thanks to chapter members Bill Cottle, Bob Bliss, Wayne & Barbara Miller, Pat Grenier, Al Dicarlo for their donations and a special thanks to Howie Strathie for all the leg work collecting donations and for his and Jean's donations.

All Board of Director Meeting are open to all members. We meet @ 5:45 on the evening of the meeting. Come early to see what we discussing and put in your two cents!

Quashnet work day for May is moved to the 22nd because of the Fly Fishing School. We had a few new faces in April. Come and help make the work easier. 9:am Martin road gate off Rt 28 at the Falmouth/Mashpee line.

The Falmouth Rod & Gun Club is running a spectacular fund-raising event this fall. The club is hosting a gala "drawing-a-day" raffle with a different prize every day for the entire month of September. Thirty days—thirty prizes! If you do win a prize (most are in the \$200/\$300+ range) and it does not appeal to you a gift certificate may be substituted. How can you lose? Any FR&G Club member can give you more information but **if you want a prize list or event rules ASAP just stop in and see "Mighty" Jim Young down at Eastman's Sport & Tackle, Route 28, Falmouth.**

R A N D O M C A S T S *featuring...*

Gossip, Extraneous News, BS, & Assorted Twaddle

Compiled by “*Red Quill*” with occasional reports from “*Mr. Nosey*” & “*The Upturned Eye*”
GOT NEWS? Shops! Members! Friends! Email: strathie@aol.com

*Spring has sprung—da grass has riz,
We wunda where da fishies is?*

~ the 3 Stooges?

HAVE A NICE SUMMER & SEE Y'ALL IN THE FALL!

This is the last Random Casts column you will read until the September issue of the RollcasT somehow magically appears on computer monitors all across this vast country on or about September 1st! Tight lines from the staff: Red, Mr. Nosey & the Eye.

Mr. Nosey reports that past CCTU President, **Bob Nickerson**, has been chosen as, “**Home Brewmaster of the Year.**” Bob co-owns Quality Instant Printing on Ridgewood Ave in Hyannis and prints his own distinctive labels for his home-brewed beer. We do not know if this is a regional, state, or national award but I bet Bob is tickled pink...or amber. Next time you see him a congratulatory handshake is called for we think.

QUASHNET WORKDAYS TO RUN THRU THE SUMMER MONTHS!

If you want to get added to our **CCTU Quashnet Restoration email list** contact Mark Hattman @ rollcast@capecodtu.org you will then automatically be notified of all the Quashnet workday dates/times and any scheduling changes on a more timely basis! And YES, we do schedule workdays in the summer. Contact Mark...we do the rest.

→ And for **Red Brook Workdays** email Warren Winders @ redbrook@verizon.net
The Chapter's annual AL BREWSTER AWARD winner for 2011 is Past President, Mark Hattman. Red sez: “*If anyone deserved it more than Mark I'll eat my waders...during a black fly hatch in New Hampshire...with no condiments.*” Thru a series of “original & inventive” options, Mark has successfully led the Chapter for 5 full seasons! He still remains on TU's National Leadership Council and is our de facto webmaster and RollcasT editor, having ushered the Chapter into the digital age. (*Hmmm...did you know we are on Facebook?*) Plus, in his spare time, he has designed & crafted the Jim Stewart Memorial BIG fly box for the past 5 years and installed & maintained the Trout-in-the-classroom aquarium in the Mashpee Middle School. **WOW!**

*So, if you are in the neighborhood anywho...*The May meeting of the **Catskill Fly Tyers Guild** will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011, in the Education Building of the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum on Old Route 17 in Livingston Manor, NY, at 7:00 P.M. Stop in, join up (\$10 a year) and meet the source of all “local knowledge”...the locals

Red be seriously thinkin' of reducing the amount of content in this, his monthly Random Casts column--read: making it shorter! This column started out years ago as a "fun thingy" to read--humor, not a way of getting Chapter news out--and he thinks it should go back to that old format..." Assorted Twaddle" as the columns masthead says. Kinda like...fewer dates, more drive! The "content" in Random had ballooned a tad during the RollcasT changeover from print to digital but that change has been accomplished now. So, beginning in September look for a shorter, more fun-filled, monthly Random Casts plus a Balderdash column here & there...whenever an idea hits Red! The key word here is FUN...this column should be fun both to write & to read.

√ The Environmental Police Radio Room **1-800-632-8075** (staffed 24/7)

SHARE YOUR IDEAS! GET INVOLVED! The Chapter is looking to you for ideas on how to improve attendance at CCTU meetings, events & workdays. YOUR ideas are important to us! *Meetings, programs, venue, RollcasT, fly tying, Spring Banquet, Fly Fishing School, Quashnet, fall outing and the "Trout-in-the-Classroom" project in Mashpee.* Take all summer to think about this. However, when (and if) the "brainstorm" finally hits, **contact, Steve Pickul, at cctuprez@capecodtu.org** And, please do this soon before the Chapter becomes moribund...but serious ideas only, OK? The BOD will talk over any and all suggestions that come in at the September BOD meeting.

Attention CCTU members! The Orvis Outlet store (next to Marshalls in Mashpee) will give you an additional **10% discount** on their already loooooooow prices Just show them your TU card or simply ask...I think they will believe you. *Come on in!* And don't forget to tell Todd or Austin you read about their shop in the RollcasT. *It's all good!*

As far as this scribe knows, **Eastman's Sport & Tackle on Route 28 in Falmouth** is one of the few tackle shops* left on the Cape that has an *experienced* tackle repair person on staff. So, if you need rod or reel work done, stop in and see the venerable "Mighty" Jim Young who is usually at the rear of the store playing with his springs, bails, screws, tip tops, spools and ferule cement working away on someone's much-needed repair work. → Next fall drop off all your repairable rods & reels, let Jim put his expertise to work on it over the winter and pick it up and pay in the spring. One hand washes the other, eh?

**I believe the Riverview in Yarmouth also has an on-site repairman eager to repair, clean & oil. (If your local shop offers this service please let Red know and he will publicize it in these pages.)*

If you have any items you deem appropriate for this Random Casts column email them to strathie@aol.com please. (The Random Cast staff will make the final "appropriateness" decision tho.) *However, this is the last RollcasT you will get until the September edition so think accordingly.* Anything of interest to our CCTU members is welcomed here...and for free! For example: the Mashpee Orvis Outlets 10% off offer above certainly benefits our membership, yes? Or perhaps even things like--kids events, % off sales, shop closeouts, tying/casting demos.....
Remember tho, we do NOT print out-'n-out ads.

RQ has been having an ongoing & engaging email conversation with SMTU's, **Warren "Windknot" Winders**...of Red Brook fame, concerning just what TU is accomplishing (*in reality*) and what TU's goals are (*in theory*.) It seems the non-fishing public's perception of TU is more or less along the lines of, "TU...whassdat?" The takeaway of this electronic chit-chat was more or less, "Don't give up the ship". TU gets precious little local press but we do lotts a good things for Mother Nature. CCTU & SMTU chapter projects include: the Quashnet, Red Brook & the Eel River in Plymouth.

CAVEAT PISCATOR! If you are planning on **fishing the Deerfield River** anytime this summer be forewarned that the C & R areas are, for all intents and purposes, almost unfishable when electricity is being made. The Deerfield has a multitude of power-generating dams and water levels do vary. The water can rise rapidly by a coupla feet in mere minutes and this can be dangerous. Air conditioners in Boston really call the shots here—so if it's hot they are making power and it get hot a lot, eh? *Try the Swift instead!*



Red sez: Sometimes just hangin' out near the water is quite enuf!
"Unless one can enjoy himself on the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many pleasant recollections of what one has seen, heard and done." ~*C F Orvis*...who obviously thought there was more to fishin' than catchin'.

It was bound to happen but it's still a shock anyway...Stan Bogdon passed away March 27th at the ripe old age of 92. Stan was the premier salmon & trout reel maker of the past century. He passed away in his hometown of Nashua, NH where for 60+ years Stan existed in business with no ads or show booths, just word of mouth. When starting out he sold his reels thru Abercrombie & Fitch and Orvis but later from Nashua only. His production was always rather sparse as he worked pretty much solo until about 35 years ago when he took on one employee, his son, Steve. His reels are highly collectable and expensive as his output was a meager 100+ reels a year. *See ya 'round the bend, Stan.*
→ FYI: Those classic & popular Orvis CFO fly reels were designed by Stan 40 years ago and were the harbingers of all "half-frame" reels now so prevalent—no pinched lines!

LAST CALL! CCTU FLY FISHING SCHOOL School dates are May 13-14-15. Last call for the 2011 School **signups**—if, indeed, there are any slots left! Last call for CCTU **volunteers!** Last call for casting, tying & fishing **coaches!** For more info go to our CCTU website capecodtu.org or: contact Tim Lynch @ cctuflyfish@comcast.net or 508-274-0936. Do it now...today! Tim would like to see more CCTUer's volunteer if for nothing more than to experience the camaraderie and verve of the event. With that in mind he invites YOU to come on down, roam about, have lunch and perhaps just fish a little...or help even. Sat. 8am-5pm / Sun. 8am-3pm. Contact Tim for more info!

A GOOD SUMMER READ...“ *The Classic Dry Fly Box* “

By Mike Valla. Published by The Whitefish Press, 2010; \$24.95, softbound, out now!

Did U like “The Classic DRY Fly Box”? Then look for “The Classic WET Fly Box” out in May.
(*The following review was used with permission from, Bud Bynack ~ CFTG*)

What makes a fly pattern a “classic”? Having been around for a while is one obvious criterion—no matter how effective it might be, the latest creation hot from the vise doesn’t qualify. With age comes the likelihood that it’s tied with natural materials— not because tyers in years past wouldn’t have embraced synthetics (they would), but because that’s what was available then. And pedigree matters. “Classic” flies tend to have been originated by major figures in the history of the sport (although attribution is always a tricky business) or at least associated with them in some way.

Flies that meet these criteria are what you’ll find in guild member Mike Valla’s *Classic Dry Fly Box*. The book surveys 100 dry-fly patterns, with examples all tied by Valla and with brief historical vignettes that help place them in the traditions of American fly tying and angling.

Short of a medium who could channel the spirits of Theodore Gordon, Reuben Cross, Art Flick, and Harry Darbee, it would be hard to find a person better qualified for writing a book like this than Mike Valla. Valla learned fly tying as a teenager at the bench of Walt and Winnie Dette in Roscoe, New York, and he has since become something of a custodian of the heritage of fly-tying in the Northeast. His *Tying Catskill-Style Dry Flies* (Stackpole/Headwater Books, 2009) is the most accessible introduction to both the techniques involved in tying the Catskill-style dry fly correctly and to the history of fly fishing as it developed in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the region.

Constant innovation has put some of these flies “on the endangered species list,” as Valla puts it, but while his intention in writing the book is partly archival, it’s more accurate to say that it’s remedial—to introduce today’s anglers to patterns that were the go-to flies in their day, but that have been eclipsed by the go-to flies of the present. The book shows the continuities, as well as the differences, in how dry flies have been thought of, tied, and used.

Of course, the classics still work. Some, such as the Variants, Skaters, Bivisibles, and Spiders, are also designed for angling techniques such as dancing a dry fly across the surface on a short line (in effect, the dry-fly equivalent of short-line nymphing) that could be used more often today.

However, beyond the criteria outlined above, all these flies have one other attribute that makes them classics. They’re flat-out gorgeous. Because the Catskill dry has so few elements, it’s the variations that stand out from pattern to pattern in a manner that suggests Bach or jazz. John Atherton’s experiments with blending shades and colors, others’ experiments with different kinds of quill bodies, hackles palmered over floss bodies (some of these flies were created as caddis imitations), and variations played on winging materials not only bespeak a fervent

inventiveness that rivals anything going on today, but produced a kaleidoscope of fishing flies that are also simply beautiful objects.

Mike Valla's magisterial tying skills and expert macro photography, which can relentlessly expose any lapses in tying technique, have done full justice to the ideas of the originators of these patterns and to the beauty and balanced proportions of the flies. This is the first in a heavy vest full of "classic fly boxes" wets, steamers . . . you get the idea, so stay tuned: *The Classic Wet Fly Box* is due out in May. Even if — or especially because — you've never heard of a Killer Diller, a Lady Benson, or the Spirit of Pittsford Mills, it's well worth taking a look into *The Classic Dry Fly Box*.



More Balderdash from Red Quill

Tenkara and the Leisenring Lift...or east meets west?

Below find a short, visual description of the method of nymph fishing popularized by Pennsylvanian, Jim Leisenring, back before WWII called, "the Leisenring Lift". This method never really caught on mainly because of the war effort...most the fishers of avid angling age were overseas. (When these GI's returned from the war they brought back fiberglass rods and that untraditional upstart, spin-fishing--and spinning became the "craze" from the late 40's onward! But that is the seed for yet another column, isn't it?)

→ **The Leisenring Lift:** *In the years prior to World War II, Leisenring, an ardent wet fly fisherman, developed a technique that **dead-drifted a fly** into a prime lie, then just as the fly reached the likely holding position of the fish, it would suddenly rise away, inciting the fish to strike. The angler stands at the edge of a current tongue and casts up and slightly across stream **with a short controlled line**. After the fly settles to the water, the rod tip is raised to keep only enough line on the water to allow the fly to sink. As the fly moves toward the angler, the rod tip is raised higher in order to prevent excess slack from forming on the water. Once the fly passes the angler's position and heads down current, the rod tip is lowered, keeping pace with current's pull on the line. This raising and lowering motion will keep the fly right on the bottom and drag-free during the length of its drift. Once the rod has been returned to the horizontal position, it is held still, allowing drag to set in and the currents to swing the line across stream. As a result, the fly will be swept (lifted) to the surface like an ascending natural.* (above from the internet)

If you "visualize" the whole affair, the Tenkara method is almost the very same thingy as the Lift except it is dry-fly fishing, not nymphing! Notice the terms "**dead-drifted a fly**" & "**with a short controlled line**". Is this not what Tenkara is all about? With the Lift the nymph is manipulated by the raising and lowering of the rod tip as

the fly comes downstream with the final tightening of the line at the end of the drift provoking a “lift”—a rising of the wet fly/nymph thru the water column followed by a strike...we hope! No lift is needed with Tenkara as we are traditionally fishing dry however the “dead drift” and the “short controlled line” is relevant. No ego-casting 60 or 70 feet, no “rooting” of the felts and no double hauling...just stream position and drift manipulation.

Any 8 or 9 foot rod with simply a few feet of line and leader exposed will work for the Lift. (However Tenkara rods are usually 11 to 14 feet long.) The resulting drift comes from arm, line and rod manipulation with very little casting, if any. You simply raise and lower the rod tip to control the fly with the Leisenring Lift. Of course, angler position is really important in both methods as you must get the fly to the target (the fish’s lair) so that the float (dead drift) or lift portion (the rising fly) happens right in the fishes face. Stream position is the key to Jim’s lift method and not casting! Stream position is vital in Tenkara too. So, I ask you—could Tenkara tackle be the ideal delivery system for both the Leisenring Lift (wet fly) and the dry fly? Does east finally meet west?

Cape Cod TU Board

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cctuprez@capecodtu.org

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