

THE ROLLCAST

The eNews Letter of Cape Cod T U Chapter 460

December 2017



Trout Unlimited - My Early Years

Blood Knots, Swivels, Strike Indicators, and Midge Hatches

Kayak Clean Up

Fly of The Month

The Dutchman's Glass

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President's Message

Where did the time go? It is already December and 2017 is about to come to a close...thus it is a good time to reflect on the season past. Did I get to fish as much or where I had hoped to as the season dawned? Did I get out and spend some quality time on the water with my good friends and my family? I do keep fishing/hunting logs; so the final results are easily tabulated. It is black and white and clear to me that I spent too much time paddling, wading, and tossing flies solo. Next year will be different!

This is also the time to be grateful for all that is good in our lives. Family, friends, fishing, etc. are all on my list. Part of our culture and good fortune is to be able to give back. Normally, we talk about volunteering on a river conservation project such as the Quashnet River, paddling around picking up trash via the Kayak Clean-up, or teaching/sharing your expertise with students at our yearly Fly Fishing School. But this month, CCTU also supports local families with their Christmas/Holiday struggles via our donations to Toys-for-Tots. Please join me and bring an unwrapped gift to the December Holiday Meeting. I am a big supporter of getting behind such endeavors; it creates good karma and good karma helps to keep the good times rolling.

The December Meeting is an important meeting for our Chapter each year. Yes it is a holiday party with lots of food, drink, and camaraderie. That is worth the price of admission by itself. But, we also hold annual elections. Electing the next great leaders for our organization enables the yearly successes of our chapter. Contact me if interested in taking a more active role. For me, it has been a rewarding experience and has opened up many new opportunities.

Here is to wishing you and your family the season's best wishes and a very Merry Christmas. I thank you for making 2017 a productive and memorable year for our Cape Cod Trout Unlimited Chapter.

Tight Lines w/ Good Friends,

Tim Lynch

CP 508-274-0936

tinylynch@comcast.net or cctuflyfish@comcast.net



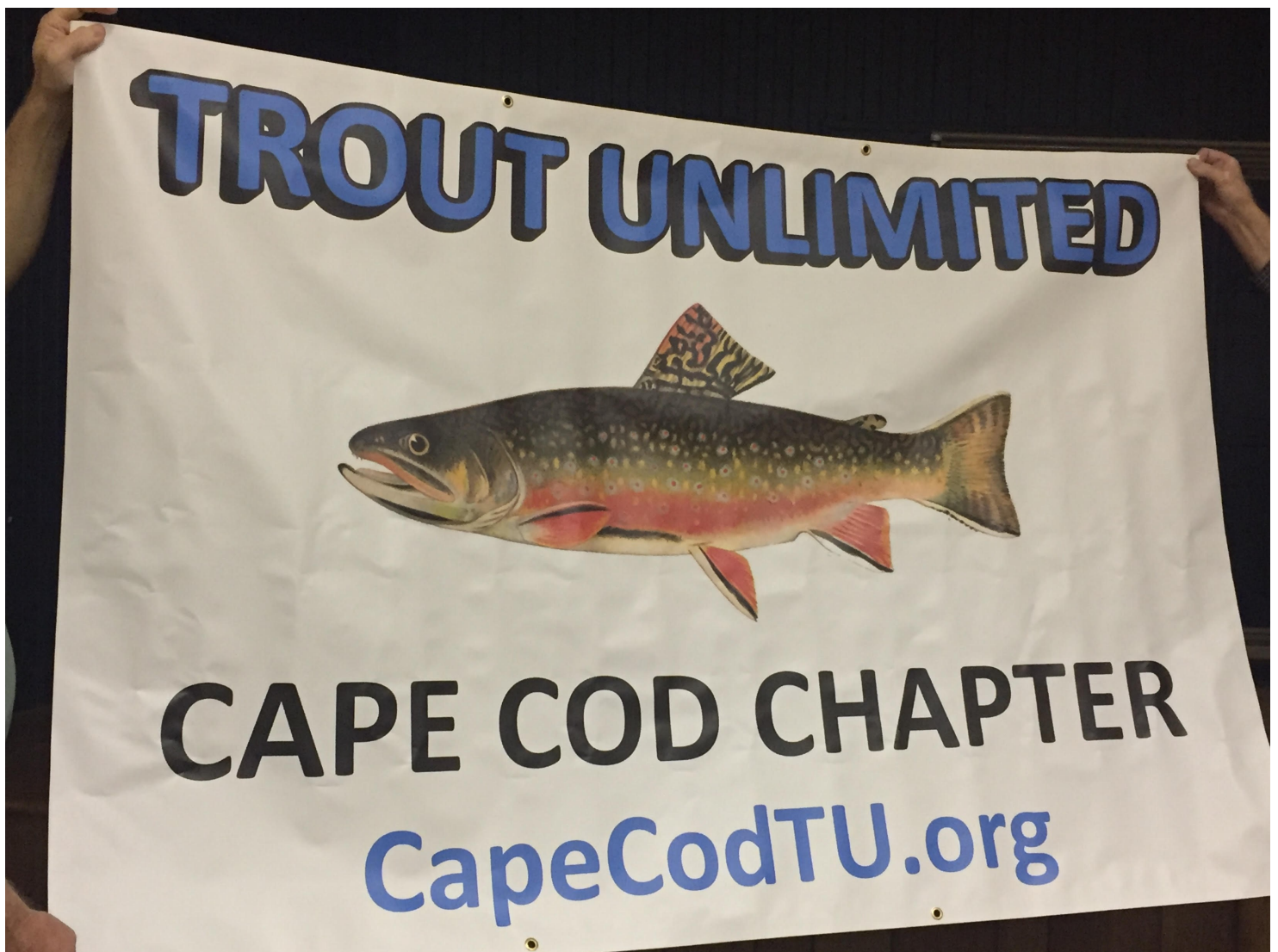
Random Casts for December 2017

Gossip, News, B.S. & Assorted Twaddle from Red & the Staff of Random!

New and archived Rollcast's can be read at the CCTU website: CAPECODTU.org

Cover Photo:

Below is our new banner to be displayed at various events: shows, meetings, fly fishing school, etc... Thanks to DanTobin for the design and procuring the flag for our chapter.



Upcoming Events

December Meeting: Wednesday December 13th at Liberty Hall. 6:00pm

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 13th.

This is our annual Holiday Party. Come by for a bite to eat. Bring an unwrapped toy for "Toys For Tots".

Quashnet River Workday: Sunday December 17th

Sunday December 17th We'll be meeting at the Martin Road gate at 9:00AM. Come on down and join the gang as we continue to work to improve the habitat for wild native brook trout in this river. The work to preserve wild fish is very important here on Cape Cod!

Upcoming/Scheduled Quashnet River Workdays:

December 17

Santuit River work with the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition:

No dates have been scheduled yet for the next outing on the Santuit.

Contact

Justin Fleming

603 365-5977

justin@searunbrookie.org

Director, Southeastern Mass.

Sea-Run Brook Trout Coalition

searunbrookie.org

Upcoming Events continued...

Kayak Clean up Sunday December 10th, 2017

Herring River, Wellfleet 9:30AM to 11:30AM

Contact:

Tom Planert, Phone Number -774-521-9629. Look for further details on page 23.

RED BROOK Workdays:

First Saturday of the month workdays are held on the 1st Saturday of the month meet @ the Lyman Re-serve parking lot, Head of the Bay Road in Wareham 9am-ish. Those of you who cannot make the Quashnet Workday due to it being held on Sunday can get your conservation "fix" on a Saturday! This project is an ongoing MA/RI Council conservation project staffed mainly by Southeastern MA TUer's. Red Brook info? Warren "Windknot" Winders @ 781-878-1074. CCTU-ers! It is highly recommended that you call the "Windknot" before trekking all the way to Red Brook.

Winter Fly Tying Nights: 2018 Dates are in! Bring a friend.

The CCTU fly tying nights will start in January. If you have never tied a fly before or have been tying for many years come out and join in. There is no cost for this and equipment and materials are available if needed. Tying will be from 6:00pm to 8:00pm or even later if there's interest to stay. These events will be held at Liberty Hall on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month starting in January: January 17th, 24th, *31st February 21th, 28th March 21st, 28th .

Fly Fishing School: Spread the word!

The 2018 date for Our annual CCTU Fly Fishing School has been announced. It will be held at the Oak Crest Lodge in Sandwich from Friday May 4th to Sunday 6th. This is our great school that includes lodging and meals with the same low price. Look for more details ahead and think about someone that you might know that would really enjoy learning to fly fish at this school. **May 4th, 5th, and 6th 2018**



TROUT UNLIMITED

CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Upcoming Events continued...

2017 CCTU Pond Challenge **** Last Month to catch up ****

Rules:

1. How many different Cape Cod Ponds can you catch at least 1 Trout? (1 point)
2. Catch a Trout while fishing with a TU friend? (1 bonus point)
3. Catch a Trout while fishing with a friend who then joins CCTU? (2 bonus points)
4. Challenge ends 31 Dec 2017; Pat Grenier is POC and will collect all entries.
5. Winner/Award Ceremony will be at January 2018 meeting. Happy fishing!



Photo's from Bob Rifchin



TROUT UNLIMITED
CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Trout Unlimited--My Early Years

By Joseph Swaluk

I first joined TU in 1969. With two chapters already established in my home state of New Jersey, I learned of a new chapter being formed in central Jersey. Joining the group turned out to be one of the wisest decisions I ever made. Instantly, I had more fishing friends than I ever had before and they were all on the “same page”. Sharing and learning together, we were living and breathing trout fishing. All of us spouted Latin names of insects like trained entomologists. During gas shortages, we carpooled to neighboring states on weekends. Often, we would stay for a late hatch, return in the wee hours, and work the following morning. When one of us married, five of us retreated to the men’s room during the reception, away from wives and girlfriends, to talk trout! It was a great bunch of guys and those that have survived are still my friends to this day.

The angling authors and celebrities of the time all embraced Trout Unlimited. Authors like Ernie Schwiebert, Charlie Fox, Art Flick and Arnold Gingrich were available as keynote speakers just by asking. Several of them became personal friends as a result of TU.

As I look back on it now, some 45 years later, the years between 1970 and 1974 constituted my college degree in trout with a minor in fly fishing. I learned more in those four years than I did prior to them or since.

This, of course, came with a price. Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization, and with that, the responsibility we all share for the sport’s survival. The reality of this situation became all too apparent to us with the proposal of the dreaded Tocks Island Dam on the Delaware River.

In 1955, hurricane Diane with its subsequent flooding resulted in the loss of life along the Delaware River separating Pennsylvania from New Jersey. The Army Corps of Engineers proposed a dam at Tocks Island as a flood control project as well as a recreation venue that the new impoundment would create. Several politicians as well as outdoor writers championed the idea. The Corps of Engineers, whose unofficial motto was “If it runs free, damn it”, put on a major campaign promoting the project. Meanwhile, the government proceeded to acquire property.

Trout Unlimited was of course adamantly opposed to Tocks Island. Several trout streams entered the Delaware within the boundaries of the project in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Significant fishable mileage would end up under water. Chief amongst these streams would be New Jersey's Big Flatbrook River. The Flatbrook was the premier trout stream in a highly populated state that already lacked quality trout water. The loss of several miles of this beautiful stream, and the Walpack Valley it flowed through, was unconscionable. Trout Unlimited would have to fight the project with all their might ---and they did! Together with the Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club and several other conservation organizations, a concerted opposition to Tocks Island ensued.

At the time, central Jersey's chapter newsletter, MAINSTREAM was being co-edited by my friend, Mike Gula, and myself. Shortly, it became TU's council newsletter. Every issue was headed by scathing articles about the project. Printed and distributed by hand, this newsletter found itself displayed on every counter in every tackle store in the state. New Jersey's trout fishermen were being educated in the shortcomings of Tocks island.

Public meetings and presentations on the project needed to be attended by the opposition. TU worked to get the membership to these meetings. Politicians react to numbers because numbers translate to votes. TU members exhibiting opposition to Tocks Island spent countless evenings at meetings. Many times, a fly or two were exchanged in an effort to make the scene more palatable.

At one point, I penned a letter to President Richard Nixon asking him to de-authorize Tocks Island. I offered, in return, the promise of my vote in the next election. I received a reply from an underling as to the merits of the project. Needless to say, my vote became a moot point since we all know what happened to Nixon.

The turning point in the fight against Tocks Island took a dramatic turn with the publication of a study sponsored by the opposition. It was found that the Delaware was unsuited for damming due to the high concentration of silt that the river carried. It was projected that in 10 to 12 years after completion, silt would build up behind the dam to the point of exterminating all life. This great recreational source would become a dead lake. Public opinion changed dramatically. In short order, the project was put on the back burner and eventually de-authorized several years later. We had won!

Today, the Walpack Valley is still there and the Big Flatbrook runs free all the way to its junction with the Delaware. The government took the land it had acquired and formed the Delaware Water Gap National Park. Ironically, it has become a popular venue for canoeing and rafting.

Recently, I returned to New Jersey by a route that took me over the Big Flatbrook. Like all trout fishermen, I cannot resist a glance at any river or stream I cross. The Flatbrook is still there. I am proud Trout Unlimited did its part and that I did too.



Fly of The Month

Mickey Finn: A streamer with an amazing story

By Jim Abbs



MATERIALS

Hook: Sizes 2-10, 4X long (Mustad 9575, TMC 300)

THREAD: Black

RIB: Oval silver tinsel

Body: Flat silver tinsel

Wing: Yellow over red over yellow bucktail (or calf tail)

TYING STEPS

1. Start the thread at the bend of the hook and tie in a length of oval silver tinsel.
2. Wrap the thread forward to a point about 1/8 inch behind the hook eye and tie in a length of flat silver tinsel. Wrap the silver tinsel down the hook shank to the bend of the hook and back to the tie in point.
3. Wind the silver oval rib tinsel forward to just behind the eye of the hook and tie off and trim excess.
4. Select a bunch of yellow bucktail and tie in over the body.
5. Select a bunch of red bucktail of the same size and tie in over the yellow bucktail.
6. Select a second bunch of yellow bucktail (about equal in size to the combined red and yellow bucktail already tied in) and tie it on top of the second red bunch.
7. Trim butt ends of the bucktail so as to create a taper toward the head. Whip finish the head, apply head cement and go fishing!

A particularly intriguing aspect of fly fishing is the history behind each of the 10,000 fly patterns and the people who used and popularized them. Even more captivating is why a fly has a particular name. On the American side of the Atlantic, perhaps no fly has a more interesting history than the Mickey Finn.

Classically, a "Mickey Finn" was a knock-out or doped drink given to an unknowing person. For trout, bass and panfish, the Mickey Finn fly was considered as deadly as that superstrong drink. But the story of this fly name is even more interesting.

Originally the Mickey Finn was a streamer fly called the "Red and Yellow Bucktail". It apparently was sold by a company called William Mills and Son in the early part of the last (20th) century.

Mr. John Alden Knight, an author and famous angler in the 1920s and 1930s (developer of sun and moon tables predicting fishing success) was its early promoter. On one fishing trip he introduced the fly to war correspondent and columnist for the Toronto Star, Mr. Gregory Clark. Mr. Clark found the fly to be particularly deadly and first named it the Assassin. But several days later, he heard a claim that famous singer and movie star Rudolph Valentino was killed (in 1926) by New York waiters who gave him a Mickey Finn. Clark renamed the fly and subsequently wrote a story about it in the Hunting and Fishing Magazine.

According to Clark, when that magazine hit the newsstands in fall of 1937, it was during the New York Sportsman's Show and as a result over 300,000 Mickey Finns were tied and sold during the show alone. In the first 2-3 months of 1938m so great was the demand that the Weber Fly Company of Steven's Point Wisconsin claimed to have sold over 1 million Mickey Finns.

What made this fly so popular? One suggestion is that it is simply a very pretty fly, with its bright red, yellow and silver colors. But apparently for trout, especially brook trout, large-mouth bass and bluegill, it is still very effective. Certainly, given its wonderful history and everyday familiarity, it belongs among the classic flies of America.

The technique for fishing this fly is fairly simple, according to its originator, John Knight. In moving water, cast the streamer quartering upstream, let it sink 2-3 feet and then retrieve it with short, well-spaced jerks. Apparently, according to my experience, a similar technique works in Stillwater, at least for bass and bluegill.

December Meeting

Wednesday December 13th

6:00 PM

Liberty Hall Marstons Mills (Address: 2150 Main St, Marstons Mills, MA 02648)

******* This is our annual Holiday Party *******

Stop in for a bite to eat. There will be Raffles! Book Sale! Fly Tying Material!

We will be collecting for the “Toys for Tots” . Bring in an unwrapped toy.

November Meeting Recap...



Our president Tim Lynch addressing T U members and friends



Betsy Gladfelter of the Coonamessett River Trust.

Quashnet River *News*

Our next work day is scheduled for Sunday December 17th.



January 2017

Blood Knots, Swivels, Strike Indicators, and Midge Hatches

I like to tie my blood-knotted leaders at home, before heading out to go fishing, hopefully to find and learn something new about midge hatches. As you probably know, midge hatches can be very difficult.

It is always tempting to use a two-fly rig instead of just one for subsurface flies. I had been using a slightly larger dropper fly off the last blood knot where the 2x and 3x sections are joined, using the 3x tag end to tie on the dropper. During casting, the tag end dropper fly always spins, and wraps around the tippet, and sometimes even ends up in a tangle. After reading a magazine article about using small micro-swivels between leader sections, I decided to give it a try.

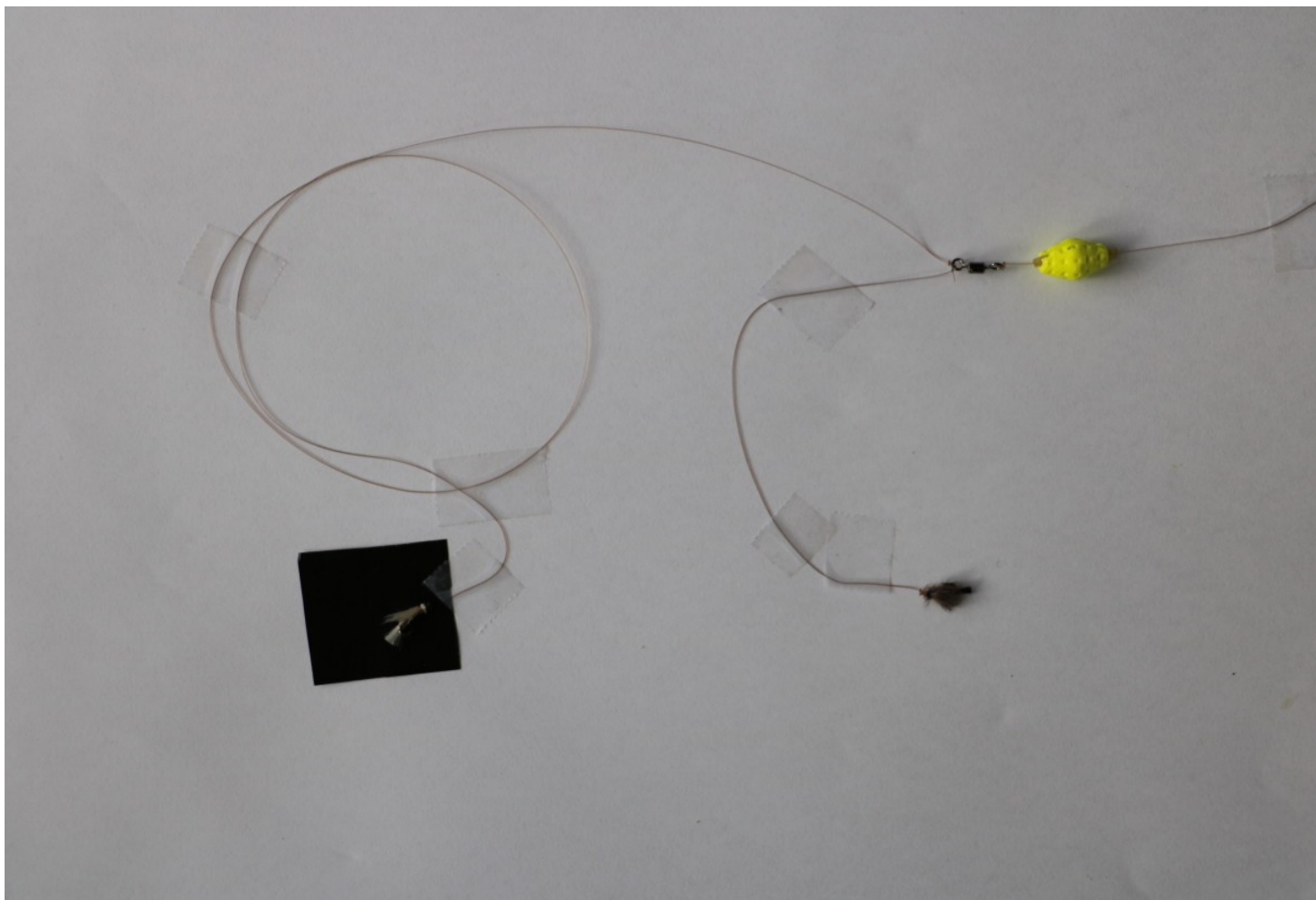
I made my leader using blood knots between the butt section and mid-section. Between the 2x section and the 3x-24-inch-tippet, I tied in a size 10 Spro swivel using Double Davy's knots. At the end of the tippet, for pressured well educated fish, I have had very good luck using a #20 all white midge, tied on with a Double Davy's knot. This knot is a quick and easy tie while on the water. When I want to use a two-fly rig, I add a 6-inch dropper to the swivel, also using a Double Davy's knot. For the dropper fly, I am using another #20 dark colored midge. The swivel amazingly eliminates any twisting of the line around the tippet. Keeping the dropper short at 6 inches more or less, also helps to eliminate tangles and frustration, making your outing more enjoyable. Without using a strike indicator, in the past, I have had luck just keeping a tight line by making short 1-2-inch strips. As of late, I just enjoy watching that strike ID go under.

For the optional use of a strike indicator, I found that the micro and original sizes of the Fish Pimp, seem to cast the best. With the strike indicator located in-line, just above the swivel helps prevent the flies from sinking. The micro size is harder to see at a distance, but as long as you can see it move or go under, it is time to set the hook. These strike indicators can be attached in-line, either in the mid-section between blood knots, or closer to the flies just above the swivel. You can try different configurations to see what works for you. If you search for them, micro-swivels in even smaller sizes may be available.

Another tip that might be useful, is that I noticed how easily I caught a lot more fish when using a 2wt rod with a light 3wt clear floating line. This is all still a work in progress, with more ideas to try out each time you go out fishing, which keeps you going back for more.

By Woody Mills

Woody is the author of "Fly Fishing the Worm Hatch."



The following story is an excerpt from my fishing journal, and other miscellaneous mythological musings, collectively known as “Tales from the Catskill Woods.”

by Patrick Sekerak, CCTU life member

The Dutchman's Glass

(October 2014)

After many hours of ‘rubbing elbows’ with my fly fishing comrades in the spacious, but sometimes crowded kitchen of Joe Doyle’s Catskill cabin, a.k.a., “Doyle’s Public House,” I’ve observed something interesting. For no apparent rhyme or reason, everyone seems to have a favorite vessel from which they indulge their chosen beverage, be it alcoholic, caffeinated, brewed, bottled, boxed, or otherwise, and that includes Gerald “The Flying Dutchman” Vandermaas.

After a long day on the water, or treed-up in a deer stand, ‘Jerry’ usually relishes an after-dinner, strong Manhattan cocktail. But, the desired ethereal effects of the libation can only be fully attained when sipped slowly from a ‘special glass.’ Mind you, the kitchen cabinets in Doyle’s Public House do not offer Waterford crystal, which is perfectly fine with the proprietor and the sports-in-residence. After all, this is a fish camp, not The Ritz Carlton, and Joe D likes it that way. Nevertheless, among the eclectic assortment of coffee mugs (with and without handles intact), juice glasses, wine goblets, brandy snifters, and beer steins, a few that match, most not, there actually existed such a ‘special glass.’ This one-of-a-kind eight ounce classic Old-Fashioned cocktail glass featured a hand painted festive Christmas design with green holly leaves and clusters of bright red berries all around the circumference. Quite handsome, and it stood out prominently among all the other somewhat nondescript orphaned glassware. Yes, this was the Dutchman’s preferred Manhattan glass. We all used it occasionally, but never at dinner, and whenever someone else did use it, he would immediately wash it so that it would be ready for the Dutchman’s after-dinner Manhattan cocktail ritual.

By now, you might have noticed that my references to Jerry’s Manhattan glass have all been in the past tense. It was inevitable. On the rare occasion when I used the Christmas special I would always wash and dry it with extreme care. It seemed to me that everyone else would do the same; after all, no one wanted to risk the ire of the Dutchman (even though he is as mild mannered as anyone I know) in the event of any accidental demise of the Manhattan special at their hand.

Autumn fishing in the Catskills can be an uncertain affair. Much of the time it is maddeningly frustrating when trying to imitate the late season tiny mayflies that pre-spawn Brown Trout so often prefer. For the dry fly addict, #24 and #26 Blue Wing Olives, or Trico's if they're still around, fished on long 7X tippets is often the rule. (Ever notice how the wind seems to freshen every time you tie on a 7X tippet...?) The next challenge comes in trying to hold on if a stream bred Brown or Rainbow takes your offering and promptly heads for the next county. Sure, you can always fish nymphs or streamers, but we come to the Catskills purposefully for the dry fly fishing, no matter what.

Dry fly addicts have to be eternal optimists, and there is always a 'silver lining' in the gloomy prewinter sky, however faint it may be. Should the day come when the late season Iso's show up, and trout finally go on a non-selective feeding binge, the fishing can be dramatically good. Such was the fine October day in 2014 Jerry obviously had, as evidenced by the multiple Manhattans the jovial Dutchman put down after dinner that evening. We all had somewhat similar experiences that memorable Autumn day, and while exchanging notes on the day's fishing in front of a crackling late evening fire, Ron Barnes, Joe D, and I were suddenly startled by a loud, unrepeatable expletive originating from the kitchen sink area. Through the purple haze of profanity it became clear to those still toasting by the fire that the unthinkable had happened -- the Dutchman's Manhattan special glass lie in several large pieces in the bottom of the kitchen sink, and at the Dutchman's own hand !!

What now!? In truly felt empathy, however brief, we gathered around to offer condolences and totally futile suggestions on how to 'put humpty dumpty back together again.'

"What ?!? Look at this thing, the rim is broken off in pieces," was Jerry's final lament.

I'm not quite sure who uttered the unsympathetic reply which suggested that if the Dutchman was a true alpha male, he would henceforth drink from the jagged-edged Manhattan special glass despite it's new razor-rimmed configuration. Truth be told, I think it was our gracious host, Joseph Doyle, who offered that 'manly-man' suggestion/challenge. Fortunately, that broke the ice (pun intended) and provoked a stream of guffaws, including the good natured Dutchman.

Upon hearing this sad tale of woe when I returned home, my wife, Tina, felt so bad for Jerry that she went out and bought two matching Christmas theme Tom Collins glasses for presentation to the Dutchman when I headed back to the Catskills the following Spring. Never mind that these are in fact Marshall's closeouts. They are as close to the original Christmas theme as we could find, they are very classy, and what's more, they match.

P.S. -- We later found a classic Old-Fashioned cocktail glass with a large letter "G" etched on the side -- perfect! Yes, another Marshall's closeout, but still a very handsome one. It is safe in a cupboard at Doyle's Public House; let's hope the Dutchman enjoys his Manhattans from HIS glass for many fishing seasons to come.

Fishing Photos



Tim Lynch with a nice land lock salmon at Grand Lake Stream. Photo by Pat Grenier.

Share a Story with Our Readers:

We are looking to see if some members would want to share a short story of experiences they have had. This can be anything from a couple of paragraphs to a couple of pages. If you have something to share please email it along and it will be included here.

Email to: ccturollcast4@gmail.com

Kayak Clean Up

Kayak Cleanup Sunday December 10, 2017

—

Herring River, Wellfleet 9:30AM to 11:30AM

Notes:

Strong currents possible. Safety First, bring PFD for each person, cover whole body for ticks if near weeded areas taking kayak on the shore, for example. Bring water, sun screen, sun glasses, whistle and compass, bring plastic garbage bags and fishing equipment, as we can fish if there is not much garbage to clean up.

Each kayak must have a throw-able rope and an extra paddle.

Contact Phone Number 774-521-9629 if any problems finding the parking area, etc.

Kayak Clean Up

Kayak Cleanup 2017 Schedule

May 13, Peter's Pond, Sandwich. 9AM to Noon, Directions will be sent for each trip the month before, in the Rollcast. This is a test trip, as this is the first event, no tides to deal with and we are simply cleaning any garbage from the pond. We will check that all cleaning equipment, safety equipment and forms for each kayaker are ready. Don't forget to bring fishing gear for after the cleanup, as well.

Again a map with directions and instructions will be sent for the event in advance to give everyone plenty of time to prepare. I tried to keep the meetings in the morning on Sundays as much as possible, this usually required the second Sunday of the Month with the tides for 2017. Cleanup areas were spread out on the Upper and Lower Cape, as well as on both the North and South sides of the Cape, as is shown below.

May 13, Peters Pond, Sandwich 9AM to Noon

June 11, Swan River, Dennis. 7AM to 11AM

July 9, Bass River, Yarmouth 8AM to Noon

August 13, Sesuit River, Dennis 9AM to Noon

September 10, Scornton Creek, Sandwich 9AM to Noon

October 8, Childs River, Falmouth 7AM to 10AM

November 11, Pamet River, Truro 10AM to Noon (cancelled due to weather)

December 10, Herring River, Wellfleet 9:30AM to 11:30AM

January and February are off due to weather and the Tide Charts do not come out until February typically.

This is the first time we are doing this type of event and the time it takes for an estuary/river to empty of fill may be more or less than 1 hour, we will adjust after each event in case we are not accurate. A few rivers were not long and 1 hour was used, on long rivers 1.5 hours was used for this first round of estimations of low or high tide.

Cape Cod Trout Unlimited

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Board Member: David Palmer

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Board Member: Steve Williamson

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Classifieds

For Sale..... Signed barn-board framed Brown Trout print by Michael Cove

#160/500

19" x 16

\$75.00 Cash & Carry

Contact Paul Richards : striper239@gmail.com [978-868-8004](tel:978-868-8004)

