



Single Haul



The Newsletter of the Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

September-October, 2004

Editor's Eddy

Last Father's Day, I was given a T-shirt with the following emblazoned on the front: *So Many Fish, So Little Time*. Maybe it should read: *So Many Fish, So Many Rivers, So Little Time*. Ken O'Brien's article on his recent Arctic adventure (see page 3) reminded me of the dilemma.

In mid-summer, I finally decided that my (mostly) faithful, 14½-year-old, bald-tired, rusted-out hulk of a "fish truck" had seen enough service – every recent trip was a cross-your-fingers adventure! – and any hope of an exotic vacation went out the window of its replacement. Not only that, but a daughter recently moved into residence at the University of Guelph, and beforehand I had joked with Ken O'Brien that my major "fishing" excursion this summer was going to be a cyber-trip to the banks of the Speed River to hand over a pile of tuition and residence fees. To top it all off, she needed a computer that far exceeds the capabilities of my home business machine. Where's the justice?

But I'm not complaining. (OK, maybe a little.) Trips like Ken's aren't necessarily for younger folks, but they are certainly for those with non-temperamental backs, specifically those who can sit comfortably in a canoe and carry packs. Besides, the mining business has provided me with an abundant share of thrills (and a few chills) in some very far-flung and remote spots; but my only regret is that I didn't have – or didn't take, as was usually the case – enough time to sample the fishing. I vividly recall a week-long trip to Alaska in which I covered, in a variety of small aircraft, the breadth and depth of the state, and during which I spent many hours gazing down on fecund streams and rivers dotted with anglers chasing salmon, steelhead, Dolly Varden or grayling – all the while with an unused rod beside me. Years before that, I had camped most of two summers on the edge of (what I learned later is) one of Yukon's blue-ribbon Dolly Varden rivers, and only once ventured waderless into its frigid, snow-melt waters – briefly, that is, until my legs went numb.

These are but two examples of a myriad of missed opportunities.

Nowadays, running off to a local river for a few hours of an evening hatch or spinner fall, or occasionally to a not-too-distant stream for a weekend, has to suffice. That doesn't mean that I can't dream or reminisce a little; what angler doesn't?

Bob Kuehnbaum, October 8, 2004

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Quotable / Notable Quotes

According to George M. Kelson, one shouldn't write about salmon fishing until he's caught 3,000 salmon. If that were a true requirement (for any species) the amount of writing about fishing would be cut by 95 percent.

– Nick Lyons

Fishing books should ooze from a riverbank, not rocket out of publisher's offices in big cities.

– Neil Patterson, *Chalkstream Chronicles*

Fall Meeting Schedule

The following program has been confirmed for the first few meetings this fall:

October 19th: General Meeting: Bob Morris of Credit Valley Conservation and Bob Kuehnbaum will review conservation activities on the Credit River. Saggi Helgason will give a presentation on fly fishing in Iceland.

November 2nd: Tying Night: Don McLean will tie pike flies. Pierre Turgeon will again instruct beginners.

November 16th: General Meeting: Mark Kingwell, a professor of philosophy at the University of Toronto and author of the book *Catch and Release*, will speak about his book and fly fishing.

December 7th: Tying Night: Mike Scanlon will be tying flies for bonefish. Pierre Turgeon will lead the beginners section.

December 21st: General Meeting: There will be a panel to answer all of your questions and to discuss the state of and trends in fly fishing.

January 4th: Tying Night: Guest tyer TBA; Beginners class with Pierre Turgeon.

January 18th: General Meeting: Club member Bob Thompson will do a slide presentation on recent trip to Eastern Canada for Atlantic Salmon.

February 3^d: Tying Night: Guest tyer TBA; Pierre Turgeon will instruct beginners.

February 17th: General Meeting: Roy De Guisti will give a presentation on the Credit River where he lives. He will discuss the hatches and how to fish them.

March 2nd: Tying Night: Shane Reilly of Wilson's will be tying bass flies. Pierre Turgeon will again instruct beginners.

March 16th: General Meeting: Mike Retallick will give a presentation on his trips to the West.

April 6th: Tying Night: Guest tyer TBA; Pierre Turgeon with the beginners.

April 20th: General Meeting: Club member Ken O'Brien will give a slide presentation on his recent two-week canoe trip down the Coppermine River in the N.W.T. Member Pat Kelly will present his last summer's trip to B.C.'s Campbell Rivers.

May 4th: Tying Night: Guest tyer TBA; Pierre Turgeon at the beginners table.

Can You Tie a Fly?

Don Arthurs, our Program Chair, is in the process of finalizing an excellent agenda of tyers and presenters for the 2004-2005 season (see above), and there are still a few spots for tyers on the agenda. So, if you can contribute in any way, Don would like to hear from you. You can contact him at darthurs@casselsbrock.com or 416-869-5494.

If you're more into the written word, please consider submitting a fly pattern, fishing tale or anecdote to the *Single Haul*. Artwork or interesting photos would be appreciated. As a matter of fact, we are experiencing a shortage of suitable material to keep upcoming issues produced at an adequate rate. Anything you have would be appreciated. Contact the Editor, Bob Kuehnbaum (see page 1).

29th Canadian Fly Fishing Forum

Planning for the upcoming Forum, **April 9th and 10th** at the **Holiday Inn in Burlington**, is well advanced.

The seminars and speakers are all in place. Presentations will cover all areas of fly fishing (steelhead, bass, browns and brook trout, salmon, pike and pan fish), as well as methods and techniques. Some of the 2005 speakers are Joe Humphreys, Bob Sheedy, Bill Christmas, Jack Imhof, A.J. Somerset, Dan Kennaley, Elliott Deighton and Jim Wenger. Ian James will run the beginners fly tying workshop.

One of the key highlights of the Forum is the *Showcase of Fly Tyers*. Forum-goers have the opportunity to talk with the best, learn their secrets, share ideas and purchase their flies or books. For 2005, tyers include: Frank Angelo, Don Bastian, Kim Boal, Dave Brandt, Joe Branham, Royce Dam, Elliot Deighton, Chris Helm, Ian Colin James, Jeanne Jenkins, Bob Mead, Bob Popovics, Dave Prothero Sr., Dave Schmezer, Dave & Jan Shenk, Jim Wenger, Paul Whillock, Harold Williams and Gabriel Zawadzki.

Don't forget the dinner and silent auction!

The Forum Committee's objective is to get attendance over 2,000. There will be a free "Getting Started" seminar to help answer new fly fishers' questions and get them pointed in the right direction. There will also be a "Tying for Kids" program put on by the Hamilton Area Fly Fishers and Tyers, and children accompanied by adults will get in free.

The Forum Committee still requires an individual to set up – *by the end of October* – and run a new Forum website with the brochure and on-line registration. If you can assist, or have any ideas, please get in touch with Mike Rowan at flyfisher@castle.on.ca.

Conservation Workday Report

August 8th: The original plan for this workday had been to continue the previous program of log jam construction, but a truck to move logs could not be located in time. Steve Copeland came up with an alternative and graciously led a small band of volunteers (Ted Armstrong, Pat Kelly, Mike Retallick and Pierre Turgeon) in cleaning spawning beds in Forks of the Credit Provincial Park. Thanks to Steve and all those who participated.

August 28th: This IWFFC workday for logjam installation around Forks of the Credit had to be postponed until next year.

September 25th: This joint IWFFC-TUC open workday also had to be postponed. Stay tuned.

Remaining 2004 Conservation Workday Schedule

October 31st (Sunday): CVC-sponsored brown trout spawning survey

November 7th (Sunday): CVC-sponsored brook trout spawning survey

For more information, please call Bob Kuehnbaum at 905-276-6684.

Wrapping up CRBTTS

On September 23, 2004, Michael Zimmer completed the requirements for his Master's degree at the University of Waterloo with the successful defense of his thesis. Michael's summary on "Brown Trout Telemetry in the Upper Credit River" contained material presented to IWFFC members at our April 2004 meeting (see May 2004 *Single Haul*). Pat Kelly, who attended on behalf of IWFFC, said that his 30-minute presentation was followed by two hours of intense grilling by the academic panel. Of note, Michael's answer to their question "What is the most effective stream management tool?" was *base flow*.

The original objective of the study was to help determine where a barrier to migratory fish should be placed on the Credit River. The data clearly refute the long-held conventional wisdom that brown trout are sedentary creatures that inhabit the same pool year-in and year-out.

We congratulate Michael for his successful study.

Coppermine Canoe Trip – Part I

Ken O'Brien

Over the last several years I've been making annual angling expeditions to Alberta. But last year's forest fires out west, and potential of more this year, introduced enough risk in the prospect of another western vacation that in May I began to consider alternatives. I initially thought

about a trip to the Gaspé, but heavy reliance on guides doesn't fit my independent, exploratory style. So it occurred to me that a trip to the Arctic could fulfill both my needs for exploration and fly fishing. On a search for information on the Internet, it didn't take long to find the web page of a group named "Blackfeather" with its stunning pictures and extensive spiels on canoe, kayak and hiking trips in northern Canada and Greenland, among other locations. An email from Blackfeather's Parry Sound office suggested that the Coppermine River trip had the best fishing, although they could not advise what flies or tackle a fly fisherman should bring.

My last canoe trip was as a teenager in Algonquin Park – all lakes and portages – and I was a bit concerned about my inexperience for a 14-day trip down a big Arctic river with class 1 and 2 rapids. Blackfeather wasn't concerned, given beginner level of the trip and the fact that the guides provide instruction during the trip. So, in mid-June I booked a spot on the Coppermine River trip for the first two weeks in August.

Over the next few weeks, I made several trips to my local outdoor equipment supplier to buy the recommended dry bags, neoprene booties and non-cotton fleeces, shirts and underwear to layer against the cold Arctic waters. I also acquired an 8-wt fly rod. (Arctic Char are big and very strong, and a 4 wt just wasn't enough.) I also bought a good saltwater-capable reel, so now both steelhead and bonefish are available to extend my fishing options beyond September – or so I rationalized.

With my gear packed into a hiking backpack and a duffle bag, I flew to Yellowknife on the last day of July. I was to meet the group of 12, my Coppermine canoeing partners, at a bed-and-breakfast in Yellowknife's Oldtown district, a 20-minute walk from the hotel. Some of the homes in Oldtown are very nice, I noticed: old gold (or new diamond) money, perhaps.

I arrived at the B&B just before 5 o'clock, and was met by John Feick from Calgary. John is great guy who has done a lot of canoeing and fishing, mostly out west. We eventually became paddling partners. Arriving over the next few minutes were: Peter, a banker from Toronto; Steve, an executive with a Toronto TV station; and Brad and Tina, a couple from Wisconsin. Our guides, Andrew and Jen, issued life jackets and went over the trip plans. We ended up dining at the nearby Wild Cat Café where we met two other Blackfeather voyagers just returned from a trip on the Nahanni River. Among all the participants I, in my forties, was the youngest.

At 7 o'clock the next morning, we gathered at Tindy Air Service and stood back as the guides and air crew loaded a Twin Otter with three canoes, one inside another with the thwarts and seats removed, food barrels and our packs. Six of us would depart for the Hepburn Lake area of the upper Coppermine, and the remaining six, some of whom were arriving in Yellowknife later that day, would fly out in the late afternoon. We boarded the loaded-up plane, six of us taking our positions beside the canoes and gear.

It was warm and sunny when the plane took off and headed north. I watched the lakes and forests beneath flow by, and I scoured the Canadian Shield landscape for wildlife. About half-way into the two-hour trip, the trees ended; not seeing any animals, I contented myself with viewing the tiny streams and lakes, wondering what fish they held and whether anybody had fished them recently – if ever.

The plane eventually arrived at the destination lake, circled and landed into the wind. We moved some stepping stones into the shallow water of the lake edge, and formed a line to unload the cargo. As soon as the plane was emptied, we watched it depart for the second group, set up camp and soon had lunch. We then spent a few hours reassembling the canoes. I strung up my rod and made a few casts as I explored the forested shore of the lake – really a widening of the Coppermine – with John. No luck. When we headed back to take out one of the canoes, a moose emerged on the opposite shore a kilometer away – perhaps a sign of things to come.

As a precaution against barren-ground grizzly bears that have been known to rip apart canoes smelling like fish, Jen advised us to use a plastic bag to hold fish and avoid getting any fish slime in the boat. John and I headed downstream. He was spin-fishing with a dare-devil type of lure, while I tied on a small yellow marabou streamer. We fished some drop-offs and some current sections. There were some caddis on the water, and a few fish – big ones! – surfaced once in a while. Focusing in the area where we saw a few fish, we trolled/cast using the wind to push us from one end of a small bay to another. On the paddle back for another drift, a fish stuck my streamer. I reeled in some of my line and, when I applied pressure, the fish took off in a 50-yard run that went into my backing. As I played the fish, it dove into a deep section of the bay, and John paddled me over to the fish as I gathered in line. A few minutes later, a tired lake trout, weighing about 6 lbs, surrendered at the side of the canoe, and I grabbed it and dropped it

into the plastic bag. As we continued to fish, a trout surfaced and our canoe cruised over it as it meandered about 8 ft below us. I couldn't tell if the trout were eating the occasional caddis that were there. We fished with no further success for another, and returned to a happy group: all the participants like fish! The fishing had got off to a good start.

About an hour later, the float plane returned and we helped unload. We met the remaining members of our group: Bob and Lyle, retired businessmen from Mississauga; Ian, a dentist from rural New Brunswick; and Cal, his long-time canoe partner from Massachusetts. While those who landed set up camp, we cleaned the fish and helped with dinner. The large canoe, inverted and laid over two barrels, served as the kitchen table. After dinner, the guides discussed the daily camp routine: Whoever was up first in the morning would help start the fire and get the coffee going. Five pairs would rotate dishwashing each morning and evening. At the end of the canoe day, we were to bring our barrels from the canoes to the new kitchen area, and collect some firewood before we set up our tents or go fishing. (Despite being above the tree line, the Coppermine valley, protected somewhat from the harsh winter climate, was cloaked in boreal forest for much of the trip, and finding firewood was not difficult.) There was also a protocol about sanitation – the point being not to leave TP strewn about the tundra.

Part II will appear in an upcoming issue, and Ken will be giving a presentation at a club meeting in April.



Chuk & Duk

Bruce Rattray

The "Chuk & Duk" came into being because I usually find myself fishing for stripers in the waters off Cape Cod at the end of September. It is a weighted bunny-type fly that requires more lob in casting than finesse.

I started tying it to use in Scorton Creek during the incoming and outgoing tides, the times when the flow is at its peak. I'd always had a problem getting flies down deep enough into the water column to the stripers waiting for baitfish. The first year, I was using an intermediate line on my 8/9 weight, and my fly assortment consisted of snake flies, baby bunkers, surf candies, deceivers, cockroaches, as well as Clouser minnows.

The flies that I was using were successful in other locations around the Cape, but I was always skunked at Scorton Creek – not a happy situation since the creek is so close to the cottages we rent, and gets fished a lot.

Since the first trip, I've added fast sinking lines, and heavier rods, but I still like the feel of an intermediate line on the rod. To solve my problem, I started looking for a fly that would get down in the water column quickly, have an enticing action, and be quick to produce with simple materials.

Around the same time, I became interested in circle hooks, so it only seemed natural to use them as the platform for the fly.

I've always liked the action of rabbit fur in the water; it seems to breathe when the line is stripped, and appears very lifelike. In my freshwater tying, I've used it in brighter colors – yellow and orange – for some of my steelhead flies. For stripers, however my best success has always come with black and olive, so these colours were my choices for the Chuk & Duk. To give weight to the fly, I added a dumbbell eye tied under the shank of the hook.

In the last few years, the Chuk & Duk has produced the majority of stripers that I've caught on the annual Cape Cod trip; it's the first fly to get wet.

Materials:

Hook: Eagle Claw 2/0 Circle hook – NT2052FS
 Tail: Black or olive rabbit strip, with a few strands of black or silver Flashabou
 Body: Crosscut black or olive rabbit strip
 Eyes: 3/16" dumbbell eyes

1. Mount hook in vise and crimp the barb.
2. Rotate hook so underside is up.
3. Tie on the dumbbell eyes about two diameters behind the eye using a cross wrap, and a couple of drops of cement.
4. Wrap thread along shank of hook to just behind the point, and tie on a piece of rabbit strip extending twice the length of the shank.
5. Tie in the strands of Flashabou, approximately ½" longer than rabbit strip.
6. Strip the fur from the end of the crosscut rabbit strip, and tie in on the shank at the end of the first strip, and advance thread under the crosscut strip to the eye.
7. Wrap the crosscut strip toward the eye, using wet fingers to stroke the fur to the rear. Wrap around dumbbell eyes and tie off with thread, cementing the head.
8. You can add stick on eyes if you wish; it works fine either way

When fishing a circle hook fly, the hardest part is letting the fish take the fly without making a strike. The circle hook is designed so that the fish actually hooks itself; if you strike, you will pull the fly out of its mouth every time. Circle hooks usually end up in the lower jaw of the fish, and the fish is always solidly hooked.

I use short, rapid strips to give the fly the appearance of a wounded baitfish. This produces a jiggling action that induces the bass to strike.

It's not all that pretty, but it works.



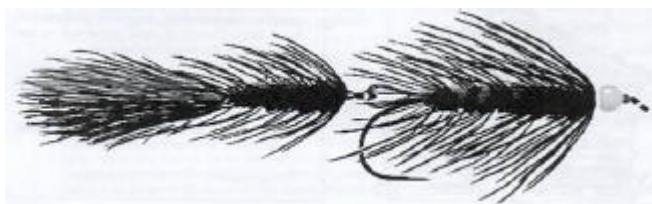
Bead-head Wiggle Bugger

John Van Derhoof, Long Beach Casting Club

The Bead-head Wiggle Bugger is a great pattern to serve as a great introduction into the world of flies with articulated bodies.

Articulated-bodied flies offer one huge advantage to flies with a conventional body and that is *movement*. The additional joint adds a natural motion and undulation that really helps induce a strike by the fish. Not only does it help a standard streamer pattern such as the Woolly Bugger, like we are doing here, but also with slow water swimming mayfly nymph imitations such as Callibaetis (Speckled Wing Dun), Hexagenia (Yellow Drake) and Siphonurus (Gray Drake).

The Bead-head Wiggle Bugger can be tied in a wide assortment of sizes and colors. Because you are using two hooks be careful of what size it is you are trying to tie. To help out, just place a conventional hook of the size you want on the table and use this as a guide. As far as color is concerned, there are four that I would recommend: 1) olive body with black tail and hackle; 2) peacock herl and black tail and hackle; 3) all black; and 4) all purple. There are, of course, many other options, but these are the colors I have had the greatest success with over the years. So next time you need to add a few more streamers to your box, then take a little extra time it takes to tie up some Bead-head Wiggle Buggers and go out after your next lunker.



Materials:

Hook: Main-Mustad 9671, Tiemco 5262 or equivalent in sizes #8 to #2. Rear,-any ring-eyed hook (Mustad 9674)
 Thread 3/0 or 6/0 in a color to match the fly
 Head: Appropriate sized brass bead or tungsten cone
 Loop: 3-inch piece of 20-lb monofilament
 Tail: Marabou blood plumes (with optional pearl Krystal Flash)
 Body: Medium to large chenille depending on the overall size of the fly
 Hackle: Large, poor quality dry fly or saddle

Instructions:

1. Place the rear hook in your vise. Determine how much of the hook will be used. This amount should be about ½ length of the main hook shank. Attach your thread to the shank and wind down to where the point would be and whip finish. Select a good quality marabou plume and tie it so that its length is the same as the shank of the main hook.
2. Select a hackle for the rear portion keeping in mind that this is the rear of the fly and the fibres should be shorter than the one you use for the main part of the fly. I prefer a poor quality dry fly neck instead of a saddle; there is a greater selection of sizes, and the barbs on each feather taper from short at the tip to long at the base, creating a much nicer, tapered body hackle when wound. A saddle feather offers neither of these qualities. Tie in the hackle by the tip. Tie in the chenille and wind it forward to the headspace and tie off. Wind the hackle forward 3 or 4 turns to the headspace plus one complete turn at the headspace and tie off. Form a small head and whip finish. Remove the rear hook from the vise and with a pair of cutters carefully remove the left over shank and bend. *Be careful of flying hooks!*
3. Slide the bead over the point of the hook, place the main hook in your vise and attach thread behind the bead and wind a jam of thread to keep the bead in place against the eye of the hook.
4. Thread the 20-lb mono through the eye of the rear hook and align the ends of mono. Measure the length needed to attach the mono to the main hook plus ¼ inch and cut off the excess. Melt the ends (the extra ¼ inch) of the mono to create a small ball or jam that will help keep the mono from being pulled out. Tie the mono onto the main hook shank being careful to keep well away of the bead. Apply some head cement or Zap-A-Gap to the thread before continuing.
5. Tie in the main hook's hackle by the tip. Next, tie in the chenille and wind it forward to a point just ahead of the bead. Wind the hackle forward about 4 to 5 turns to the bead plus about 2 to 3 turns at the bead and tie off forming a very small head. Whip finish the fly and apply head cement to both heads as well as the end of the rear portion of the fly.

Courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Newswire Service

Streamers and Brookie Lakes

Dan Kennaley

Streamers and brook trout lakes seem to go together just like peanut butter and jam. Brook trout are carnivorous, and, according to Scott and Crossman's "Freshwater Fishers of Canada", will eat any living thing they can get their mouths around. This includes aquatic and terrestrial insects and minnows. One 7-inch brookie was even found to have eaten a snake. We've had most of our luck imitating minnows with great old streamer patterns, many of which have been around for years. Favourites include the Mickey Finn, Muddler Minnow (including a variation I tie called the Mickey Muddler), Marabou Black Ghost, Thunder Creek Shiner, and Light Edson Tiger. Lately, I've increasingly tied these patterns in beadhead versions too.

You can catch brookies in relatively shallow water while fishing from the shore of a brookie lake with the same outfit you use on a stream, providing you time your visit to the lake accordingly. Due to temperature stratification in lakes, this is a few days after ice-out through June. During winter and immediately after ice-out, brookie lakes are a fairly uniform cold temperature. After ice-out, the surface begins to warm and the lake begins to divide into three temperature zones. Before long, the top layer, which stretches into the shallows, reaches the temperature most preferred by brook trout. The warming process also sets off a relative explosion of photosynthesis and related food production in near-shore shallows. As warming continues, however, the shallows get too uncomfortable for brookies and they move out and deeper, occupying a relatively narrow transition zone, usually in 15 to 25 feet of water between the now almost soupy shallows and the cold depths of the lake.

While in the shallows, brook trout can be caught with floating lines and a nine foot leader. Allow the fly to sink for 10 or 15 seconds (less if it's a beadhead), then start a slow retrieve. If you're not having any luck, vary the retrieve. Six weight rods have enough power to cast No. 6 or 8 beadhead streamers, even if there is a bit of wind, but are still light enough to enable you to enjoy the power of an 18-inch squaretail.

Shallow water brookies love structure. Large rocks rising to near or just above the lake's surface and large trees that have fallen into the water along the shoreline are brookie gold mines. Keep in mind, however, that "shallow" is a relative term. Many brookie lakes fall off quickly. If you wade

out 6 feet from shore, and cast your fly another 30 feet, it might be in water that is 15 feet deep. The fish might nevertheless be suspended and taking advantage of the protection provided by near-shore structure.

Trees tend to crowd the shore of many brookie lakes. When they fall in, they provide trout structure, but until then they're fly-grabbing challenges to angler's back-casts. Fishing from a canoe or float tube can help eliminate the problem. Float tubes can be packed in more easily than a canoe. This is a significant consideration, since most of the good brook trout lakes I've fished have been off the beaten track at the end of a long hike.

If, however, you've paddled or portaged into a brookie lake with a canoe, you can not only cast from the canoe, but also troll streamers. You need a buddy to troll effectively. While one person fishes, the other paddles. We've tried to both fish while one paddles, but the person paddling is seldom able to set the hook quickly enough when a fish hits. While trolling, remember the fish are in the shallows early in the season and around structure, so cruise shorelines.

Reprinted, with permission, from "Patterns", the newsletter of the K-W Flyfishers

Trout Unlimited Canada Annual Dinner

The annual TUC dinner / auction fundraiser will be held on Wednesday **November 10, 2004**, 5:30 pm at the **Fairmont Royal York Hotel** in Toronto. There will be a pre-dinner reception, prime rib dinner, live and silent auctions, draws & door prizes

More than 140 donated items will be available at the live and silent auctions, including a 1-year lease for a RX330 Lexus, jewelry, art, hand-carved furniture, fly fishing equipment, golf packages, GTA restaurant dinners – and more. Exotic flyfishing destination packages include Iceland, Patagonia (Argentina), salt water in Cuba, Alberta and British Columbia.

Tickets are \$200. For more information, contact Len Yust, TUC's Ontario Executive Director, at lyust@tucanada.org or 905-403-2645.

Book Review

***Tying Better Flies* by Art Scheck**

Countryman Press, Woodstock, VT
173 pages, softbound, illustrated, colour
Suggested price US\$27.95
Reviewed by Bruce Harang

This book is directed to teaching fly tyers how to tie better flies by providing techniques that improve durability and simplify tying procedures. The author's description of this book in the introduction says it best: "My emphasis is on how to tie flies; on techniques, components, and little tricks that produce fake insects and ersatz minnows that act as you want them to and stay in one piece; on construction methods that solve problems and yield practical fishing lures. For "better," then, you can read "practical, predictable, consistent, durable, and versatile."

The book starts with a short chapter on tools and how to pick them so that the tyer does not have to overcome the deficiencies of the tools he uses. The next chapter is an exceptionally lucid, practical, and compelling discussion of hooks, threads, and head cements. This chapter is one of the best of its kind in print today. The following twelve chapters are broken down into how to tie specific flies or styles of flies which result in "better" flies. Each chapter starts with a general background about the fly or style of fly to be discussed. Next is detailed the various parts of the fly and what types of materials will produce the fly having desired characteristics. This is followed by a section of tying tips for realizing the desired fly. Finally, each chapter concludes with step-by-step tying instructions with superb photographs and lucid text.

This book is directed to practical and popular fish-catching flies. Thus, it covers buggers, hair-wing streamers to represent minnows; muddlers; a general purpose nymph; wet flies, both classic and contemporary; classic dry flies, some with innovative new materials; parachute dry flies; a pair of hair-wing caddis flies; creative dry flies with added buoyancy built-in; tiny flies; Clouser's Deep Minnows; and weedless flies including bend-backs.

This book is extremely well written in an easy to read style that provides excellent instruction. It is complimented by superb photographs and first-rate editing and layout. If you are looking for a book to get you tying very productive patterns very well, this is the book. It makes a great addition to any fly tying library.

Courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Newswire Service

Izaak's Rubber Ruler Department

"And when you prepare to spin a tale, see that your hands do not tremble, nor your eyes dart to and fro, and do not permit your hands to wander hither and thither, but hold one carelessly over your heart, as if proclaiming an oath, and the other open in front of you, as if to say "See, I conceal nothing."

"And when you commence to speak, take great care to do so in a voice neither excessively loud, nor much meek, for just as you would not choose to drive a small nail with a sledge, or a bolt with a muffin, so too must you suit the tone to the purpose.

"And as to the contents of your little story, be guided thus: expand, but do not entirely invent. It is blasphemy and pure folly to usurp the role of the Creator and cause to appear upon the waters some imaginary monster which, perchance, snatched away your pole, made mincemeat of your leggings, mouthed a pony, and bore away your luggage on its back.

"But if you gently take one of His trout, and in a spirit of generous indulgence cause it to gain a foot or two of extra measure in the course of the telling, you will have the favour of your listeners, for truly the most mammoth specimen of a fish with which men are acquainted is far easier to swallow, as it were, than the tiniest exemplar of one unseen."

– Izaak Walton, 1653

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