



Editor's Eddy

A while back, I mentioned the forced retirement of my veteran "fishmobile". Despite its unsightliness and ever-threatening unreliability, the old beater would be an advantage around this time of year: after all, who'd care about a little more road salt when there's nothing left to corrode? And when our family at last found a suitable Christmas tree on a recent desperate and near-futile hunt through Mississauga's parking lots and big box store outlets, I had to face the prospect of shoving the dirty, needle-shedding, sap-oozing thing into my new vehicle. (Why the heck didn't I get a roof rack?)

Much worse that day, however, was the sticker shock: prices of trees driven skywards, apparently by their scarcity. Certain spruce and firs were tagged at \$75! (Small forests dangling in the breeze for display purposes reminded me of the unfortunate Scots in the movie *Braveheart*.) We'd never before paid more than a third of that price, but ended up shelling out \$40 for our relatively modest model – "a deal even at that," the vendor affirmed, evidently sure that I'd been born the previous day.

This precipitated a chain of thought (perhaps enhanced by far too much caffeine) about the many, many thousands of cedar trees that organizations have planted on watersheds in the GTA. I imagined people, disgruntled at the high cost of greenery, skulking at dusk into Forks of the Credit Provincial Park, Swede saw in hand, to take home the spoils for the living room. (At the peak of our distress, I momentarily considered joining them.) Then came the concept that those trees are an asset: the 1,000 or so we've planted on the upper Credit in the meadow area alone could be worth \$75,000 in hard cash to the Snidely Whiplashes of the world. My gosh! does all this mean that we should apply for a grant to establish a permanent watchman in the park? Don't think so: fortunately, cedars aren't a hot item on the Christmas wish list; but to be a balsam or Fraser fir would be a risky livelihood these days.

Although all this is in jest (I hope!), there are countless incidents of Xmas tree skulduggery. Some people in northern communities are known to occasionally cut down 40 ft evergreens and lop off only the top 7 ft as their prize, leaving the valuable timber to disintegrate in the bush – and giving rise to a new definition of the "Yule log".

Hope you've had a *great* Holiday Season!
Bob Kuehnbaum, December 26, 2004

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Quotable / Notable Quotes

What makes a river so restful to people is that it doesn't have any doubt - it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn't want to go anywhere else.

– Hal Boyle, *Help, Help! Another Day!*

I am convinced now, after spending a good part of my adult life on trout streams, that rivers come from the veins of the gods themselves. Surely, rivers are the blood of the beings more capable and sensible than we and to stand deep in a trout stream is to make contact with the pure spirit of the gods themselves. ... Put your soul afloat on a lake and you'll likely get it back. Do the same on a river and you'll be able to let yourself drift away for good.

– Michael Delp, *Riverdog*, 1994

Club News & Events

Winter/Spring Meeting Schedule

January 4th: Tying Night: Guest tyer: William Gerrard, past-president of Winter Hatches, will be tying top mounted (Fire Tiger) and side mounted (Mrs. Simpson) feather-wing streamers; Beginners class with Pierre Turgeon.

January 18th: General Meeting: Club member (and Trout Unlimited Canada Greg Clark Chapter President) Bob Thompson will do a slide presentation on recent trips to Atlantic Canada for salmon.

February 3rd: Tying Night: Guest tyer: club member Sharon Cook will be tying salt water striper flies; Pierre Turgeon will instruct beginners.

February 17th: General Meeting: Roy De Guisti will be talking about the Credit River where he lives. He will discuss the hatches and how to fish them.

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

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

April 6th: Tying Night: Guest tyer: Club member Peter Pettos will be tying classic Spey flies for salmon and steelhead; Pierre Turgeon with the beginners.

April 20th: General Meeting: Club member Ken O'Brien will give a slide presentation on his 2004 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.

There is still one spots for a tyer in our meeting schedule: May 4th. If you can contribute, Program Chair Don Arthurs would be pleased to hear from you. You can contact him at darthurs@casselsbrock.com or 416-869-5494.

29th Canadian Fly Fishing Forum

April 9th and 10th at the Holiday Inn in Burlington.

Registrants and exhibitors have started to sign up for the Forum, and it should be another great event. The Forum Committee, however, still require volunteer club members for the following:

- Deliver brochures and put up posters
- At the Forum: check seminar badges, introduce speakers, help with the club booth, registration, fly tying and the silent auction.
- Help at the banquet and silent auction/raffles.
- A banquet master of ceremonies.

If you're going to the show, why not set aside an hour or two to help make the Forum an even better success? Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with Forum Chair **Mike Rowan** at flyfisher@castle.on.ca.

Annual Award Nominations

It's time to start thinking about nominations for IWFFC's various awards to be given out at the 2005 Forum. The awards are:

Maurice How Award: To recognize one individual's enthusiasm and involvement in supporting the affairs of the club.

Roderick Haig-Brown Award: To recognize one individual's contributions and achievements in the field of conservation.

Jack Sutton Award: To recognize creativity and innovation in fly tying.

Greg Clark Award: To recognize contributions in the arts of fly fishing.

If you would like to discuss a prospective nominee, please get in touch with club president Ted Armstrong at 905-637-2058 (home number) or at armstrong@uniongas.com.

New Executive Member

Raymond Desilets, a relatively new (two-year) member, has decided to wade chest-deep into the waters of club activities by looking after our website (and, perhaps, Forum website). Ray claims that he's not really an HTML programmer, but should get by: he works at an IT firm stuffed wall-to-wall with programmers who should be able to give him a hand.

We welcome him aboard!

Other Announcements

Pollack's Last Cast

It was with dismay that we greeted the news of the closing of Pollack Sporting Goods Fly Fishing in Toronto. The announcement on November 22nd was followed up by an article in the *Toronto Star* a few days later. We wish Daniel Pilekin, a third-generation owner of the family-run business, all the best. (His employees, Bill Katraouras and Gord Lindsay, have already found new positions at Wilson's.) Pollack's great selection of, in particular, fly tying materials will be missed.

Jan Normandale, newly-minted editor of *Cribbings*, the newsletter of the Cold Creek Fly Fishing Club, had a few thoughts in their December,

2004, issue about the state of fly fishing retailing in this neck of the woods. With his permission, they are repeated below.

“Just two years ago a struggling Skinners Fly Fishing had to quietly close their doors – a downtown institution dating back to the 1920s. A relative newcomer in Port Hope, The Ganny Fly Shop, suffered a similar fate a year earlier. And now within the last several weeks, Barklay’s in Oshawa, a supplier to all branches of sportfishing, also closed. To lose so many venerable landmarks in such a short time is a blow to all the fly fishing and sportfishing community.

“Perhaps it is the times; there have been reports that interest in all forms of recreational fishing across the board is declining. Ontario’s provincial licensing advised of a downtrend several years ago and it is still declining. This and various other shopping venues such as online stores, casual part-time vendors operating from home, outdoors sports superstores, Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire and many other retailers who stock for a couple of months during the fishing season, all add to the erosion of the small sole proprietor stores. I have seen this in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and other cities in Canada and the US. It’s a trend and it is not stopping.”

Trout Unlimited Hamilton Dinner

The Ontario Council of Trout Unlimited is hosting a fund-raising dinner on **February 2, 2005**, at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. The event will include a reception with pipe band, buffet dinner, a presentation on Lake Superior coaster brook trout, and an auction of fishing gear, travel items and artwork.

This is designed to be a much more affordable affair than the annual Toronto dinner, with ticket prices set at **\$70**. The IWFFC executive is encouraging members to attend – all in support of cold-water conservation – and intends to reserve one or two tables of eight people. For information or to reserve your spot, please call Ted Armstrong at 905-637-2058 (h) or at tarmstrong@uniongas.com.

Spring Fishing Show

We are in the process of lining up volunteers for the Spring Fishing Show to help out in our traditional spot at the kids fly tying area, and to help staff the club booth. The show runs from February

17th to 20th, at the Toronto International Centre on Airport Road.

Please get in touch with Ted Armstrong at a meeting or at the numbers given above.

Conservation Corner

Green Drakes on the Credit: Canary in the Coalmine?

A matter of some discussion over the last few years among Credit River “regulars” is the ever-diminishing emergence of Green Drakes (*Ephemera guttulata*) on the main stem in the Forks of the Credit area. There have been first-hand accounts of extremely poor activity in the meadow reach and, at best, sparse to modest hatches below the Forks, where spotting perhaps 20 to 100 individuals in an afternoon and evening is considered a highlight; this compares poorly with many thousands of duns and spinners that were around daily during previous annual week-long “Green Drake-fests” as recently as 2000. Meanwhile, hatches on the West Branch have been much better than on the main stem, perhaps “normal”.

Henry Frania, a consulting entomologist and post-doctoral associate at the Royal Ontario Museum who has been studying the insect life of the upper Credit River since the mid-1990s, took the matter seriously and undertook on his own initiative a quantitative assessment. Henry has recently released a report to MNR, CVC and local angling and conservation groups; that report is the basis of this article. The term “catastrophic decline” in the title of Henry’s report is ominous.

Despite the fact that the Green Drake is widely distributed and important to trout (and anglers) in Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario and New England, little has been written about them scientifically. They are, however, known to be particularly sensitive to water quality. Nymphs take two years to mature, so populations of smaller “first-year” nymphs and larger “second-year” nymphs should be expected.

Henry systematically sampled five different sites: two on the West Branch between the Forks and Belfountain; one on the main stem around the former parking lots just above the Forks; and two on the main stem – one not far below the Forks and the other upstream from Sligo bridge. The two West Branch sites yielded a total of 338 first-year nymphs and 16 second-year nymphs. Samples taken at the three sites on the main stem yielded “no Green

Drake nymphs whatsoever". Unexpectedly, another area downstream from the lower of the West Branch sites also had no nymphs.

Henry also did some lab studies with West Branch nymphs. When kept in aquaria set up with West Branch gravel, nearly all of the first-year nymphs survived. With unwashed main stem gravels, or gravels from the West Branch site which was devoid of nymphs, a majority or near-majority of first-year nymphs died within 10 days. If the gravel was washed beforehand, survival was much better. There was almost no mortality of second-year nymphs in any aquarium test.

Conditions on the main stem above and below the Forks, Henry concludes, are no longer suitable for their survival, and that the problem may be connected to fine sediment or organic debris in the gravel. He feels that the aquarium survival of second-year nymphs explains small numbers of adults in the main stem below the Forks: nymphs washed down from the West Branch.

Is the scarcity of Green Drakes in the main stem due to the Orangeville STP effluent problems in 2001 (and 2002)? The 2001 event was just prior to the Green Drake emergence period, and may not have affected the hatch that year, but could have been responsible for the loss of first-year nymphs and a resultant poor year in 2002. But perhaps the river was already deteriorating prior to that (as evidenced by the disappearance of Green Drakes at Terra Cotta in the mid-1990s), and the STP operating problems were sufficiently lethal to precipitate a steep decline further upstream.¹ This, however, does not explain the lack of Green Drake nymphs in the lowest part of the West Branch.

Since the abundances of other mayfly species haven't changed too much, he feels that the deterioration of the Credit is in an early stage.²

Frانيا makes several recommendations, including: analysis of the river substrate for pollu-

¹ Another source could be the village of Alton where increasing amounts of nitrate and phosphate are entering the river because of inadequate septic systems (see *Upper Credit: Proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant* in November, 2004, issue of this newsletter).

² Anglers have noticed major decreases in the abundances of some caddisfly adults. Some mayfly hatches, like *Isonychia*, seem to be actually faring better; according to Frانيا, it may be that some species will thrive in nitrogen-rich environments – *Isonychia* is a major insect on Grand River, for example – while others will not.

tants; monitoring of the Green Drake populations and suitability of the environment; biological studies of the Green Drake; and monitoring of other potentially sensitive insects like the Great Stonefly (*Agnetina capitata*).

Anyone wishing to review a copy of Henry Frانيا's report should contact the Editor at the number or address on page 1.

Trips & Tips

Four of Western New York's Best Trout Streams

Al Himmel

The following is modified from the Fall 2004 edition of the FFF-North Eastern Council newsletter Backcasts, with additional information (and permission) from the author. It's a good introduction to some alternate trout fishing destinations which are not far (about 3 hours) from our area, and which may provide a late fall or early spring cure to some off-season blahs. The small map is a general location guide, and the club library has an excellent New York State atlas & gazetteer with which some trip fine-tuning could be done. – Ed.

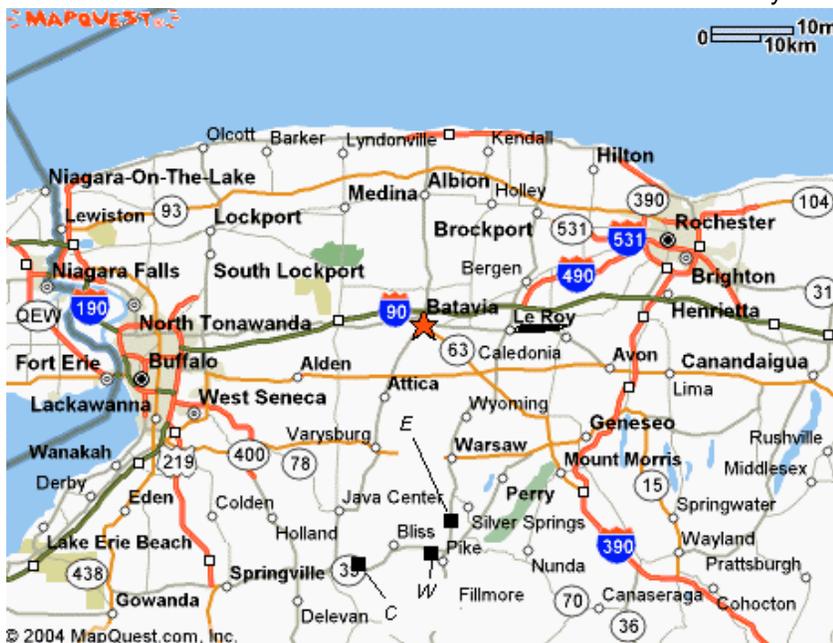
The trout streams of Western New York provide a diversity of fishing opportunities seldom equalled anywhere else in the state. Most of the waters are small streams with little gradient to provide the rushing waters characteristic of the Catskills and Adirondacks. In order of personal preference, they are:

East Koy Creek

Located in Wyoming County towns from Hermitage to Lamont ("E" on map), a variety of water conditions provide easy roadside access, or more secluded walk-in access points where larger brown trout might be encountered. The stream is stocked annually with 6,000 brown trout including several hundred over 12". The stocking occurs at the eight bridges crossing the creek, and trout populations remain high throughout the season. Many carryover and wild trout, including some brook trout, are included in the mix. All in all, the Eastkoy provides something for everyone since there are no special regulations, yet the state-imposed, three-fish limit is conservative. The Eastkoy is open April 1st through October 15th.

Wiscoy Creek

Five miles west of the East Koy, the Wiscoy ("W" on map) runs from Eagle, through Bliss, into Pike and then empties into the Genesee River at Rossburg. Above a low-water restraining dam at Mills Mills in Allegany County, some stocking occurs, but the Wyoming Co. sections are wild trout waters, with a no-kill section at Bliss. Brown and brook trout predominate in the Wiscoy, but trout greater than 12" are uncommon; in fact, brook trout are generally in the 6" to 8" category. Above Pike, access is marked by DEC fishing signs and there is plenty of easy roadside access. Below Pike, however, walk-in points (including the Boy Scout camp) require a long hike back up the hill. Hatch information is the most needed item if one wishes to solve the difficult wild trout fishing on the Wiscoy. As with the Eastkoy, visitors will have to camp at one of the three or four campgrounds along the creek since there are no motels in the immediate area. The Wiscoy is open all year, with catch-and-release from October 15th to April 1st.



Oatka Creek

Rated as one of the ten best trout streams in New York State, Oatka Creek is located in Livingston County where trout fishing dominates. From its origins in Warsaw to Le Roy, the creek is mostly a warm water fishery, until the gradient changes at Le Roy and trout are stocked to create a fishery. Ten miles to the east (see highlighted area east of Batavia), the cold waters of Spring Creek again create a drastic change in the nature of the fishery, and the Caledonia Fish Hatchery has established a

wild trout population which extends to Scottsville where the creek joins the Genesee River. Unfortunately, most of the creek is posted by several fishing clubs and private ownership that is enforced. Easy access can be found at Caledonia Mumford Bridge and in Scottsville at the town park. Poke in, hunt & seek is the name of the game on Oatka Creek. Excellent early season hatches of *E. subvaria* create superb fishing that attracts a large number of devotees. Brown trout dominate and, once again, the +12" stockers add a little spice to the experience. The season is from April 1st through October 15th, but the Genesee is open all year from the state line at Shongo to the dam at Belmont. There is a no-kill mile from Shongo upstream, which is also open all year.

Cattaraugus Creek

All things considered, Cattaraugus Creek ("C" on map) provides all things for all fishers. At its origin above Arcade, it is a small trout stream with heavy stocking and easy access marked by DEC parking signs. Downstream from Arcade, the creek becomes what might be considered a major river and, except for the fact that there is little easy access, could be fished into Springfield where a power dam interrupts its flow. Below the dam, and into Lake Erie, fall runs of steelhead trout have created a major attraction; most of the fishery, however, is on an Indian reservation and an Indian license must be obtained. Finding access on the reservation entails exploration of many dirt side roads and locating the migrating trout can be more than a one-season project. Above Arcade, the wading fisherman will encounter stocked browns and some resident rainbows. The season is from April 1st through October 15th.

The Dead Drift: An Oxymoron?

Roger Maler, President of the Southern Council FFF

Many of us have stood, spitting out flies, in the midst of a west coast hatch thick enough to obscure the water, without considering the underlying value of the experience: that simply the flies we meticulously tie, strain to present ever so lightly and laboriously mend to produce a "dead

drift” are, in fact, intended to replicate something that is alive!

Take a minute to watch the activity during a hatch, or just one bug on the water, and observe their movement and almost imperceptible vibrations emitting from them. This “lunch bell” is being broadcasted to every living thing who might consider this morsel as its next meal above and below the water. The point is that a true dead drift may not be the optimum presentation in every situation.

During my formative early fishing life, I discovered by accident that trout would strike almost any thing that was moving on the surface. Many years ago, I was dead drifting a Rapala (yes with a spinning rod) over a deep pool during a break. The movement of my guide’s rowing effort was moving the plug in small twitches and plops. That action is gospel for torturing warm-water fish, like bass and brim, to strike, and my astonished guide and I learned that day that it also works on trout.

The “twitching” technique is quite simple, and may happen to you now and again in the mending process, or as a result of a poor “dead” drift. The normal reaction to “spoiling” the drift is to pick up and recast elsewhere, fearing that you may have spooked the trout in the area. Steady your nerves and rod, and let the drift continue, flicking the tip every 4-5 feet. The object is to *vibrate* the fly – not pop it. At the end of the drift, raise your rod and momentarily hold the fly in the current, and very lightly swing the fly across the current skittering it on the surface. If you can, lift the leader off the surface too. Keep in mind the size of the fly and its natural counterpart’s ability to move on the surface. The best fly that I have found to do this with, because of its design, is a size 14-16 elk hair caddis. Use a leader of at least 10-12 feet for all dry presentations; longer if you can turn it over. When you apply floatant to your fly, also apply to the full length of the leader, and always keep your fly line dressed, at least twice a day!

I have also learned that matching the hatch to the nth degree of detail and size could *reduce* the odds of attracting a rise. Try a larger (maybe two hook sizes) fly to get some interest. Why compete with hundreds of the real thing? Toss an attractor or terrestrial into the melée. Try the twitching method above. If you are unequipped to throw dries at the instant of a hatch, keep fishing the same way since the feeding frenzy usually lowers the trout’s guard and the odds of a strike are good. The window of opportunity during a hatch may only be a few minutes – as we all have sadly experienced. If you

are nymphing, try high sticking the rod, get your bug up near the surface and skitter it at the end of the drift. I have actually done this on a sink-tip line with a woolly bugger and caught fish! Admittedly, not your classic streamside image.

Fly Tying

Poul Jorgensen, 1926-2004

Poul Jorgensen passed away on November 29, 2004, next to Willowemoc Creek in Roscoe, NY. Originally from Denmark, he had lived in the United States for over 45 years.

Poul left his job as a mechanical engineer in 1969 to make fly tying his full-time profession. He wrote many books, beginning in 1973 with *Dressing Flies for Fresh and Saltwater* which raised the bar for all fly tying books that followed. All of his books took do-it-yourself instruction to a higher level; they were explicit, detailed, and easy to follow. His 1978 benchmark book, *Salmon Flies: Their Character, Style and Dressing* began the renaissance of tying classic Victorian-era Atlantic salmon flies that continues to grow today. Each of his books brought a new dimension to the art and craft of fly tying. Poul was the world’s ambassador of flytying.

He was always innovative and on the cutting edge of tying. He could tie any style or category of fly and explain and demonstrate to others his techniques for successful construction to others. He was responsible for promoting and developing substitute materials for endangered and protected birds and animals. His professional integrity landed him endorsements to many products, and he developed his own signature series of fly tying materials.

Poul freely shared his knowledge with everyone who requested it. There was always time to answer a question or share a story. He continued providing fly tying instruction to students of all ages, from children attending annual meetings of The Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (founded in 1940 to expose children to conservation practices while learning fly fishing) to skilled anglers as a regular featured tyer at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum and at Catskill Fly Tyers Guild sessions. (*He was once at the Forum in the mid-1980s – Ed.*)

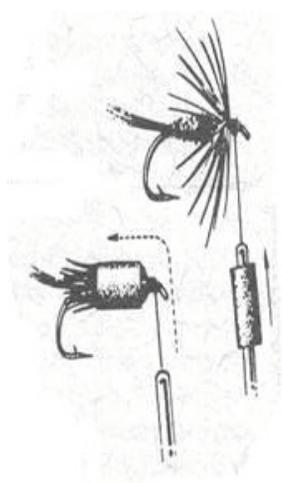
The recipient of many honours over the years, he considered his induction into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame as the most important.

Abridged from an article by Rodney E Priddle Sr. of the FFF. For this and other articles in full, contact the Editor.

Superior Hackle Guard

This tying tip was taken from the revised and enlarged *Fly-Tying Tips*, edited by Dick Stewart. Try this when you are having problems tying in hackles or wings.

Fingers make pretty good hackle guards, but that only leaves one hand to work with. The following arrangement keeps the hackle or wings, or whatever, out of the way, and leaves both hands free. Any local Radio Shack will be happy to sell you a selection of heat shrink tubing of various diameters.



Slip a 1 to 2 inch section of ¼ inch tubing over the stem of the bobbin before attaching the thread to the hook. It will ride on the tube, out of the way, until you want to trim or glue without the hackle getting in the way. It's a matter of a moment to slide the tube off the bobbin over the head of the fly, do the task and then replace it onto the bobbin tube.

Courtesy of FFF ClubWire newswire service

Book Reviews

Inside Fly Tying

By Dick Talleur

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA

92 pages, softbound, illustrated, color - Suggested price US\$19.95 (Cdn\$27.95)

Reviewed by Bruce E. Harang

The subtitle of this book clearly tells the reader what the author is about: *100 Tips for: Solving the Trickiest Fly-Tying Problems!* This is not a pattern book though it teaches through the tying of specific patterns. Also, this is not a beginner's lesson book, though a beginner will shave years off the

fly tying learning curve by studying this book. It is simply an extremely well-written, well-edited, and well-illustrated manual giving the reader a toolbox of special techniques to make fly tying easier and a lot more fun. This book is written in Dick Talleur's easy-to-read conversational style and illustrated with excellent color photos, many enhanced with computer-added graphics to illustrate more clearly the point at hand.

The book covers the more common problems like tying in hair wings and wings made of wood duck flank feather as well as the less common problems of winding two hackles on a Hewitt skater. There are also some really novel solutions to common problems such as gluing off parachute hackle instead of tying it off and the specifics of dyeing materials using Kool-Aid brand drink powder. In addition, there are tricks for using foam, Coq de Leon feathers, splitting tails, and much more. All of this done in a writing style that is so relaxed the reader can not help but learn.

Any fly tyer that wishes to become a better master of his craft will love this slim volume and will refer to it often. This book provides a great deal of tying help for a very reasonable price. If you tie flies, you will want to add this book to your library.

The Vise Quad

Where members share favourite fly patterns

Beadbead Sparkler

Pat Kelly

This pattern was adapted from one presented by Ian James at the "Winter Hatches Fly Fishing Club 9th Annual Fly Tying Symposium 2003", which in turn was adapted from a popular fly in the United Kingdom.

Hook: Angling Specialties 1150, size 14

Thread: 6/0 white

Body: 2 strands each of root beer and chartreuse Krystal Flash

Wing: 3 strands of silver Flashabou, doubled

Head: 4 mm brass bead

1. Tie the middle of 10 cm strips of Flashabou to a point on the hook shank 4mm behind eye. Whip then cut off the thread. Fold the Flashabou forward so that all the strands are directed toward the eye.

2. Insert a bead on the hook point and push it around the hook, over the Flashabou, all the way to the eye.
3. Start the thread again one third of the way around the bend. Tie in the Crystal Flash, again in the middle of the strands, and wind thread forward to the bead.
4. Twist the Krystal Flash together and wrap around the shank in overlapping turns so the body thickens toward the bead. Tie off flush with the bead and trim off excess.
5. Pull the Flashabou over the top of the bead and tie in just behind the bead. Whip finish and apply cement.
6. Blacken the sides of the bead with a felt tipped marker to simulate eyes.



Miscellany

This recently discovered gem of a poem reminded me that this edition was lacking seasonal flavour. It's a little late for Xmas, but what the heck ... – Ed.

'Twas The Night Before Caddis

Richard Frank

Twas the night before Christmas when down by the stream
The full moon looked out on a chill winter scene.
A lone trout was sipping a midge in his brook,
Untroubled by worries of fishers with hooks.

Then from above a small sleigh did appear
Pulled by a brace of eight tiny reindeer.
It swerved of a sudden and down it did glide,
Settling its runners along the streamside.

The fat, jolly driver dove into his sled
And emerged with his three weight held high over head.
"Thank you my elves for this wand smooth as silk.
This break will be better than cookies and milk."

So saying, he jumped from his sleigh with a chuckle,
Hiked up his boots and cinched up his belt buckle.
Santa meant business that cold winter's eve.
A fish he would catch - that you'd better believe.

Looking upstream and down, he spotted that trout,
Then he open his flybox and took something out -
"Size 32 midges are only for faddists
I'll go with my favorite tan reindeer caddis."

So he cast out his line with a magical ease
And his fly floated down just as light as you please.
And it drifted drag free down the trout's feeding lane,
But the fish merely wiggled a fin of disdain.

"Oh Adams, oh Cahill, oh Sulphur, oh Pupa,
Oh Hopper, oh Coachman, oh Olive Matuka!
I've seen every fly in the book and the box.
I'm old and I'm wary and sly as a fox.

To catch me you'll need an unusual gift,
For a present this common no fin will I lift."
Old Nick scratched his head for his time it grew short
The reindeer behind him did shuffle and snort.

He looked once again in his box for a fly
When a pattern compelling attracted his eye.
"The Rudolph!" he muttered and grinned ear to ear
"Far better to give than receive, so I hear."

So he cast once again and his magic was true,
And the trout it looked up and knew not what to do.
"This fly has a body of bells don't you know,
And if that's not enough there's a shining red nose!

I know it's a fraud and I know it's a fake,
But I can't help myself. It's a gift I must take!"
So he rose in swirl and captured that thing,
Flew off down the stream. Santa's reel it did sing.

"Ho!" shouted Santa, "You're making my day.
If the heavens were water, you'd be pulling my sleigh."
So, Santa prevailed and released his great rival
First taking great care to ensure its survival.

He then mounted his sled and he flew out of sight
Shouting, "Merry Caddis to trout and to all a good night!"

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