



Single Haul

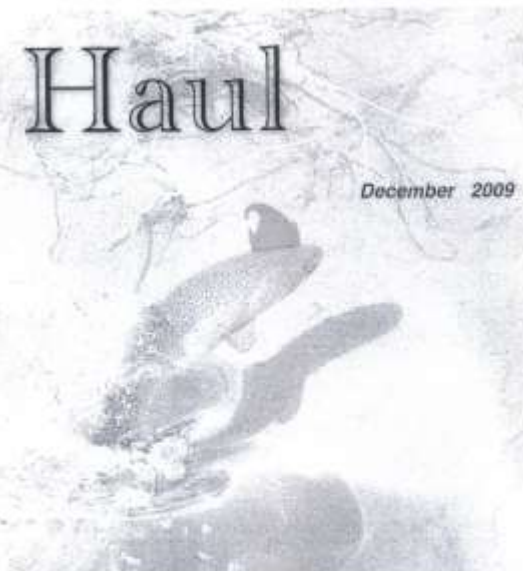
The Newsletter of The Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

December 2009

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Editor's Eddy

How deceptively the green fades to tan and the snow arrives. Pushed back by nature we retreat to the confines of the indoors; to the tying vice, the prospect of another year's fishing and reflections of a year past. Another holiday season is upon us with it's unique charm. Kitchen traditions, egg nog, the R.I.D.E. program, the Nutcracker, the man in red, the less fortunate, the family.

The strong association of this time of year with the act of giving is in our minds. What better time for us as clubmembers to consider what a membership at IWFFC means to each one of us. The motivations in becoming a member are varied. Joining the club may provide the opportunity to discover how to cast a flyline successfully or tie a parachute Adams. It may provide the setting to build a database of 'secret' fishing holes for exploration later. (good luck with that one!) or it may mean a place to simply make friends and escape the "honeydo syndrome" for the winter. There are many reasons that motivate a person to join a club but I would hazard a guess the pleasure in being able to give something back as a

volunteer for the common good of the club would not rank high. Those of you present at the last club meeting will know of the ambitious conservation work already underway by TU, with respect to the drainages into the Credit River in the Orangeville area and the need for bodies to support that initiative. The planning of our very successful annual Forum is also underway with many opportunities for willing volunteers.

Early on a Saturday in May this year with three of my daughters en route to a dance event in Waterloo, we spent the morning planting trees at Mill Creek. (yes! with Pat Kelly) So many volunteers arrived and planted 500 or so trees in short order and soon we were washing down hot dogs and burgers at the lunch barbeque. The amount of time you donate is unimportant. Whether it is an hour or ten or more, what is significant is that any help lightens the load on the shoulders of a hard core of volunteer workers who, every year, commit selfless energy and countless hours into making an event a success. This year Geoff McGregor has taken on the responsibility of Volunteer Co

- ordinator for our Forum and will be more than happy to add your name to his list (he's checking it twice!!?) for an hour or two of help. (please contact Geoff at gmac.312@gmail.com if you can offer some time.) For those members who are rich with years of experience in the club, if you haven't of late considered it, please think about sharing your wealth of knowledge with the less experienced, enabling them a fuller 'on stream' experience next year.

On behalf of the club I would like to extend to all members, and their families, the best of the season and peace, good health and happiness for the coming year. Ed

VICETIME

Parachute Flies with Ron Koshoshek

Dry flies tied parachute style, in my opinion, entice a rise more often than any other type, especially when fishing for highly selective fish or during a sparse hatch. Their superiority in hooking rate, prospecting, and ease of tying is so great that I have not tied or used a traditional fully hackled, bottom clipped or no hackle dry fly in years. However, unlike other dry fly designs, the margin of construction error is narrow. Oddly enough, the smaller the hook size, the more critical design issues become, except when hatches are dense and fish feed with abandon. Unfortunately, parachutes are



ineffective and annoying to use and tie if not properly designed.

Parachutes should ride upright in the current. The fly will do that only if it does not tip on its side in wind or rough water.

It will tip over when the wings are too high or too wet, or when the weight of the material above the hook shank is greater than the weight below. Parachutes, like sailboats, need a good keel to ride upright in the current. If the wing is too high or bulky, you can trim it. If the wing is too wet, a false cast or two can correct the problem. But if there is excess weight of material above the hook shank, the problem can only be solved at the tying vice.

A parachute fly has hackle wrapped horizontally above the shank and around a "post". If you incorporate a single or divided wing, it serves as the post around which the hackle is wound. Originally, tyers were instructed to place the wing material on top of the hook shank, and secure it in the upright position, placing thread wraps over the material and in front of the wing. Ignore this bad advice in favour of the following.

1. Place and secure the wing/post material **under** the hook shank.
2. Bring equal amounts of the material to an upright position on each side of the hook shank.
3. Create a post by wrapping thread around the base of this material up far enough to allow for hackle to be wrapped around it. Place 3 wraps of thread in front of the wing post.
4. Secure your hackle on top of the hook shank, shiny side up, curved side down, facing away from you at a 90 deg. angle to the hook shank. A dab of super-glue will permanently secure the entire structure.
5. Attach tailing material. I use z-lon for a trailing nymphal shuck as well as feather fibers. The wing + hackle design provides all the "balance" and floatation your fly will need.
6. Wrap the dubbing from tail to head. "X" wrap to cover the slight "bulge" created by the wing/post structure. This provides the fly with a natural silhouette which triggers the rise.
7. Wrap 3 (or more) turns of hackle counterclockwise around the wing/post and whip finish at the eye.

Final notes: Use wing material that does not absorb water. Avoid soft hen or turkey barbules. Use your best hackle. Position the wing at the middle of the shank on size 20 materials for 14+ size flies. Fluorescent wings for ultra small flies work well if there is a need for increased visibility. If you design your parachutes as above and they fail to bring a rise, then look to your tippet size or length or to your casting technique for the source of the failure.

I had the pleasure, one evening some years ago, watching Ron using the above technique in his trailer after a day on the Upper Missouri casting to pods of rainbow during a trico hatch. His success, not mine, the following day attested to the wisdom of this tip. Ed

Volunteering

Donna Cridland

How can I possibly find the time to volunteer? That of course is a common question for all of us, except, of course, if you are Pat Kelly. Then the question arises "How can I find time when I'm not volunteering?" This is more the exception than the rule.

Volunteering is rather a personal topic however bearing in mind our club is a volunteer organization (i.e. there are no paid positions), I thought I would share with you how great it has been for me having this experience at a venue like IWFFC.

I stepped out of my career at the bank and was going to take some time to think about what to do next. In the interim I looked to volunteer workbut where to start? When I decided to get involved at the beginning, I didn't know anyone, I had no fly tying experience and I certainly no idea what a redd was, but it didn't matter.

I didn't have a plan but I really got lucky. Being a IWFFC member and surrounded by oodles of veteran volunteers it wasn't long before

Mr. "Dynamite Volunteer", Pat Kelly, took me under his wing.....and bingo!

I thought I was in Nirvana and if Pat would just put up with my million questions, this was going to be perfect. Scheduling volunteering into my 'new life' I thought would be an easy transition, so I began with electro fishing. That is an absolute "must do" for all new fly fishers. It utilizes all the same stream tacticsexcept you have no rod? (ouch!!!)....and the places it will take you on the river are amazing. Furthermore, you will learn a ton about the river which provides you a foundation for many fishing years to come. So my schedule became electro fishing during the week leaving weekends graciously for the rest of the world. Then, to my surprise, when I went to book a few more days ...!***!??..... they were all booked up. I realized then I was into something worthwhile. So try it and register early.....you will be thrilled in getting to know the river. (www.creditvalleycons.com)

Next, I thought, I will try some flytying with the kids.....no problem! so off I went with Pat to some events. I had tied maybe 10 flies in my whole life, so being qualified as an expert, Pat assured me there was nothing to worry about. With his passion and patience I managed without difficulty. So again.....beginners out there..... this is a "must try" volunteer opportunity. The smiles from the kids are food for your soul....and you will perfect the wooly worm too!

At this point I began to see the potential for a full time 'volunteering' career. Somewhere along the line however, in helping out with more events (where Pat appeared 99% of the time) I found I couldn't keep up. So with the old adage "if you can't beat 'em join 'em" in mind, that's exactly what I did. A year after having the privilege of Pat's teaching, I tossed my hat in the ring and became part of the IWFFC conservation committee. What a thrill!?

Being the beginner I am, among a sea of experts, I am willing to learn and will need lots of help, but it is a role of which I'm proud and as we move into another year I would like to share a thought with you :

For those of you who joined IWFFC to learn how to fly fish bear in mind we have survived as a volunteer organization for over 25 years so please consider where you can give back. Countless IWFFC veteran members have contributed zillions of hours in promoting our sport especially for the reputation of the club....feel free to ask where you can help.



"Ask not: what your club can do for you askfor your club" Ed

A Thought for Don

As many of you are aware Don Moore, a founding member and first president of IWFFC, is currently undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer. Don had successful surgery and is now in the post operative recovery stage still fighting his illness. On behalf of the club, I wish Don and his wife Marveen all our prayers and sincere good wishes for an early recovery and the hope that we'll see him on the river soon. At this time of year, especially, we are thinking of Don and his family. Ed

UNNATURAL GAS

The Marcellus Gas Shale refers to a region in North Eastern US where it is estimated that billions of cubic feet of natural gas are trapped in the geology below. The area encompasses regions in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. The current methods for extracting the gas require drilling deep into the earth, large quantities of water and an array of chemicals. The process of producing the gas commercially will present a significant threat to watersheds and wild fish habitats. From the map below the massive extent of this gas reserve is clear. Following, are extracts from an article which highlight the concern affecting wild fish populations in those areas. These are fisheries very close to home. Ed



Extracts from "Unnatural Gas"

Ted Williams

Most of the East's great trout streams drain New York State's Catskills, northern Pennsylvania and the highlands of West Virginia. Superimpose a map of these watersheds on the prime drilling sites in the Marcellus Shale region—a 48,000-square-mile layer of sedimentary rock a mile or more below Earth's surface and containing an estimated 363 trillion cubic feet of natural gas—and you get almost an exact geographic match. This probably isn't coincidence because in high country, where remnant populations of wild trout abide in cold headwaters, natural gas tends to be under greater pressure.

Natural gas extraction from this area, potentially the largest of some two-dozen gas development areas in the United States, is just starting. No one I consulted in the conservation community opposes exploiting this rich resource. They'd just like it done right; they'd even settle for legally.

Instead, New York, West Virginia and especially, Pennsylvania are in the process of suspending what the energy industry calls 'impediments' to gas production and what the rest of the nation calls 'environmental laws'. Basically, they've embraced the Bush-Cheney "energy policy," hatched in secret with the energy companies themselves: Extract as much gas as possible as fast as possible, at any cost to fish and wildlife and with enormous subsidies to industry at a time of record profit.

One might have supposed that these states would have learned something from the recent rape of Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, but no! and, while the Obama administration is relatively sympathetic to fish and wildlife, it can't do a lot because, unlike western gas reserves, the Marcellus formation underlies mostly private and state lands.

The current atmosphere approaches that in

Alaska back when whooping sourdoughs were slamming gold nuggets onto the bar at the Red Dog Saloon. Suddenly farmers who have spent their adult lives wresting produce from parsimonious dirt are being offered \$2,500 per acre just for drilling rights. Texas-based Range Resources has thus far leased 1.4 million acres in the Marcellus region and claims that in Pennsylvania alone, gas extraction would create 100,000 jobs and annual revenue of at least \$8 billion. Pennsylvania issued 471 drilling permits in 2008 and, as of this writing in early June, 476 in 2009.

So-called clean natural gas fouls everything but your furnace. In a process called "hydraulic fracturing," developed by Halliburton Company, a witches' brew of water, sand, formaldehyde, acids, petroleum compounds and herbicides (highly toxic to fish) that discourage pump-clogging algae in wastewater ponds and tanks, is blasted into the earth at high pressure, fracturing the shale. Dozens of other ingredients are unknown to the EPA and the public because the precise composition of "fracking fluid" is conveniently said by the industry to be a "trade secret."

Halliburton vows to pull its affected operations out of Colorado if the state forces it to disclose the recipe for this toxic cocktail. And the government accountability outfit, OMB Watch, reports that in 2008 a Colorado nurse almost died just by treating a gas field worker who had been doused in fracking fluid and that although the nurse was suffering heart, lung and liver failure, kidney damage and blurred vision, the drilling company refused to tell her doctors what the proprietary" chemicals were.

When frack fluid is pumped out, the sand remains, propping open the cracks so the gas can flow. But now the fluid—as much as **4 million gallons per well**—has picked up such additional toxins as benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, xylene, heavy metals, salts and naturally occurring radioactive material (chastely referred to as NORM) usually

consisting of Radium 226 and Radium 228, bone seekers that cause cancer.

According to the Los Angeles Times, information on fracking and its dangers to public health was deleted from the White House National Energy Policy, written largely by then Vice President Dick Cheney, previously CEO of Halliburton, which, while he was in office, paid him \$150,000 a year until 2005.

At best, treatment of used frack fluid is only partial, and there's no place to dispose of it other than in streams where it can poison aquatic ecosystems or underground where it can poison aquifers. In southwest Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia, the Monongahela River, source of drinking water for 350,000 people and habitat for endangered mussels as well as a rich diversity of warmwater fish including bass, sauger and walleye, got so rank with used frack fluid in 2008 that its water wasn't even fit for industrial use. U.S. Steel actually had to stop production at its Pittsburg coke plant.....continued

The complete article "Unnatural Gas" by Ted Williams (no not that Ted Williams!) can be viewed at www.leonchandler.tu.org (scroll down to the link) Ed

BLUE CHARM

Chris Day



IWFFC

Materials

Hook: Mustad 36890 Size 6-12
 Tip: Fine Oval Silver Tinsel
 Tag: Yellow Floss
 Tail: Golden Pheasant Crest
 Rib: Small Oval Silver Tinsel
 Body: Black Floss or Wool
 Hackle: Kingfisher Blue Saddle, Schliappen or Hen Neck
 Wing: Moose Hair
 Thread: 70 Denier UTC White, and 6/0 UNI Black

Tying Instructions

1. Mount the hook in the vice.
2. Start tying thread behind the return and wrap to a point midway between the point and the barb.
3. Tie in fine oval tinsel under the shank in the 6 o'clock position and advance the thread forward. Make five wraps of tinsel and tie off. Do not trim excess.
4. Tie in Yellow Floss even with the point of the hook. Wrap floss back to the tip of the tinsel and then back to the floss tie in point. Do not trim excess.
5. Prepare a golden pheasant crest feather by gripping it by the tip and stripping off any loose fibres. Tie in feather on top of the hook. The tip of the feather should reach a point just inside the bend of the hook. Do not trim excess.
6. Tie in the silver tinsel on the same side as the return. Wrap thread forward in touching turns to close to the back of the return. Use your fingers to distribute the excess materials around the hook. The excess will help fill in the gap between hook shank and the return. Clip off the excess.

7. Tie in the wool or floss with five tight wraps at the tip of the return. Wrap wool in touching turns back to the tail and the back to the return. As the wool is approaching the return, unwrap 3 of your thread wraps. Secure the wool with three wraps of thread and trim excess.

8. Wind the tinsel in five evenly spaced turns over the wool body. Tie off the tinsel under the bottom of the hook.

9. Invert hook in the vise. Strip off some blue hackle fibres and tie in. The tips of the hackle fibres should reach the third rib of tinsel. Trim off the excess.

10. Tie off the 70 denier thread and start the 6/0 thread. You want to form a bump of thread in front of the wool body.

11. Clip off a small clump of moose hair (10-15 fibers). Comb out any underfur and stack in a hair stacker.

12. Tie in the clump of moose hair with three pinch wraps in front of the bump of thread. Wind your thread in tight wraps over the bump to the tip of the body. Bring your thread forward in tight wraps to the moose hair tie in point. Clip and taper butts of the moose hair, add a drop of head cement and cover the clipped moose hair with thread. Build up a head with your tying thread. Whip finish your thread to complete the fly.

At the first club meeting of the new year on January 5th, Chris Day will be our guest tyer. Chris will be tying a selection of hairwing atlantic salmon flies. Ed

ROBOFISH

Bob Karson

Robotfish -- ok, like some kind of cyber salmon? High tech tuna? Mechanical mahi mahi? Well, not really. The futuristic fish being

developed by Michigan State University researchers will be packed with sensors..... sort of fish and 'chips.' These strange creatures may eventually 'see' using infrared eyes. Schools of them could provide us with a new level of underwater environmental data to help us keep tabs on things like temperature, pollutants, oxygen levels and harmful algae.

Right now there's only one robofish -- the prototype is only 9 inches long, but it's a keeper. It's modeled after a perch. His home is a tank in the lab 'cause he's not yet ready for big currents. The team is working on future robofish that navigate, maneuver, and communicate with each other as well as with a docking station. They could be able to operate autonomously for months at a time, surfacing at programmed intervals.

As climate change and other forces disrupt aquatic environments, these faux-fish-on-a-mission should be able to give us a more 'in-depth' method of monitoring. Borrowing from nature, it took expertise in the fields of electrical and computer engineering, zoology, materials science and even art to 'spawn' this idea

Bob Karson is with the 'discovery files', new advances in science and engineering from the National Science Foundation. NSF is an independent US government agency responsible for promoting science and engineering through research programs and education projects." The Discovery Files" covers federally sponsored research projects. More information is available at nsf.gov or on their podcast. Ed

