

The Hatch

TREE PLANTING MAY 6TH

We have organized a tree planting day for both the NY and VT side of the Batten Kill and are looking for volunteers to help with the project.

We plan to start at 8:00 AM on May 6th and will plan to meet at the Picnic Area just over the NY state line on Route 313 West to assemble and organize.

REMEMBER, THIS WILL BE HENDRICKSON SEASON SO THE QUICKER WE PLANT, THE QUICKER WE'LL BE ABLE TO FISH!

Boots, shovels, spades and some elbow grease are all that you'll need and we will provide lunch for volunteers.

We greatly appreciate your help. Please contact Doug Lyons if you can join us on this important project for our Batten Kill. I will need a rough estimate of volunteers to plan the logistics for this day.

Call 1-800-762-5767 x 5579 if you wish to participate.

HAPGOOD POND FISHING DERBY

The annual Green Mountain Forest / TU children's fishing derby has been scheduled for May 20th at Hapgood Pond in Peru VT. The Derby will start at 8:00 AM and any and all members interested in volunteering their time for the event are greatly appreciated.

This is a great event for young and old. Please call Bill Bullock at (802) 362-8637 if interested in donating your time or making a small donation to offset the cost of prizes for the event.

FISHING NIGHT MAY 3rd

The chapter's first monthly fishing night will take place on May 3rd. The meeting location will be at the Quill Gordon B&B on Rte 313 in Arlington. Marty Oakland has generously offered his place for us to gather. The designated stream for the evening will be the Battenkill. Meeting time is 6:00. The idea is to pair up for the evening and enjoy some fishing. A brief overview of what is in the chapter will kick off the evening before heading off to fish.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF FLY FISHING ANNUAL BANQUET

The annual Museum Auction and banquet is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th at the Equinox Hotel in Manchester VT. This dinner is a must attend event with great food and libations. This dinner also includes a great live auction and silent auction featuring great fishing trips, artwork and products. Tickets are \$75.00 per person. For more information, call the museum-362-3300.

BATTENKILL UPDATE

Ken Cox and his team will be taking measurements of the stream channel, analyzing pool depths, noting cover types, amount of riparian vegetation and analyzing the composition of the stream bed to identify whether or not significant siltation has been taking place. Temperature gauges will be placed in the stream at various locations to collect thermal records. Less formally the team will be noting areas with erosion. Also, the team will be doing population surveys and their goal is to survey 10 miles of river this summer.

ANGLER DIARY KEEPERS NEEDED

The state will not be surveying anglers this year to determine success rate on the river. Several chapter members have offered to maintain diaries provided by Ken Cox to

keep records of their personal success on the stream this summer. More are welcome and encouraged to do the same. These diaries will provide anecdotal information to Ken about what may be happening on the river. If you are interested in participating please contact Doug Lyons at 800 762 5767 x 5579. He will pass on names and addresses of those wishing to participate to Ken Cox. Ken will provide the diaries.

PROJECT STATUS

Pig Farm:

Exact dates for the Pig Farm project are not finalized but late July / early August is the most likely timeframe at this point.

Covered Bridge:

Shelly Stiles has noted that some help is needed with this project. It is most likely a one day job but Shelly needs the help of a skilled carpenter / woodworker in order to properly tie together the bins and ramp that will be built. Does anyone in the chapter possess these skills or know of someone that does? Let us know if you do. Thanks.

ON THE DEERFIELD

Many may be aware of the favorable article written in a recent issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine about the upper Deerfield. It is likely that fewer are aware that a plan to replace a dangerous bridge that crosses the river on Rte 9 has turned into an important environmental issue. David Wein has been in touch with the chapter regarding the Deerfield and he reports the following:

Recently a 1200 foot stretch of the Deerfield River along route 9 in Searsburg, Vermont has been threatened by the VT Agency of Trans. and Army Corps of Engineers. These agencies wish to Re-channel this stretch of river in order to build a safer, less winding road in a narrow

valley where there is little space for construction. Plans were to begin construction this summer.

This stretch of river includes a deep kettle hole known as the Salmon Hole. The pool is a popular place for swimmers, fishermen, and photographers. The Agency of Transportation and Army Corps of Engineers plan to build the new road directly over this stretch of river by filling in the magnificent hole with 35 feet of fill.

The plan would eliminate valuable habitat for 4 species of salmonoids, smallmouth bass, minnows as well as amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans, insects.

Environmental groups, led by the Conservation Law Foundation began to push for an alternative plan, which would avoid the river.

The EPA, which had previously been in favor of the reconstruction, was turned around at the last minute undoubtedly because of protests from the Conservation Law Foundation. At a public meeting on April 4, 2000, several environmental groups expressed their opposition to the current plan including: the CLF and Deerfield /Millers chapters of TU, Concerned Citizens of the Deerfield Valley and the Deerfield Watershed Association. At this point, thanks to the efforts of all these environmental groups, reconstruction plans have been ruled out for this year. The current goal is to identify a safe reconstruction plan, both for the species which use the river and the motorists who use route 9.

FLY OF THE MONTH

When late April and early May roll around most anglers think of Hendricksons. While the importance of this hatch certainly cannot be underestimated it is often a smaller mayfly that draws the attention of the trout. That fly is the blue quill, which is imitated by a size 16 or 18 hook. An effective pattern for taking fish that are rising to blue quills is a small parachute pattern with a z- lon tail that mimics the nymphal shuck of the fly. The pattern is as follows:

hook - #16 or #18 dry fly
wing - medium dun poly or turkey flats

tail - dark brown z-lon tied about 4/5 the length of the hook. Be a little sparse with the z-lon

body - muskrat

hackle - medium dun, parachute style

As with all patterns don't be afraid to "tweak" it as you see fit.

CATCH AND RELEASE "HOW TO"

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept offers the following suggestions in practicing safe catch and release methods:

*Land fish as rapidly as possible using tackle that is adequate but sporting. A Fish played for too long a time may be too exhausted to recover and has an increased chance of dying after release.

*Keep the fish in the water as much as possible and handle them with the utmost care.

*For fish hooked in the lip, jaw, or mouth, remove the hooks gently and carefully .

Use the hook shake method: reach into the fishes mouth and grasp the hook shank with thumb and forefingers; lift the fish slightly out of the water; rotate hook shank so eyelet is down; shake gently. Longnose pliers or surgical clamps are useful for this procedure

*Use barbless hooks, or pinch barb flat with pliers to quicken the unhooking process.

*For fish hooked in the gills, throat, or stomach, do not attempt to remove the hook. Leave the hook in the fish by cutting the leader close to the outside of the mouth. Even if the fish is bleeding heavily, it may survive, so release it.

* When still or drift fishing with bait, watch the line continuously and set the hook as soon as possible. This reduces the chances of the fish swallowing the hook.

*Before releasing an exhausted fish, cradle it in a swimming position in calm water and move it gently back and forth to force fresh water through the gills. When the fish is able to maintain an upright position on its own and is able to struggle, let it go.

TEACH THESE METHODS TO YOUNG ANGLERS, OUR NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS!

FLIES FOR 2000 – CATSKILL FLY FISHING CENTER

Interested in having a favorite fly that you have tied displayed at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center? This organization is

accepting flies from tyers all year long. Here are the details:

To take your place in history and join some of the world's greatest fly tyers, simply send your fly or flies to the address below (only one fly per category) with a 3 x 5 card with the following details and become one of the "Tyers of the Year 2000".

On Front of Card: Name, Address, Pattern Name, Category, Signature

On Back of Card: Pattern Name, Category, Pattern Ingredients, Thread, Hook, Body, Tail, etc. Send to: Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum

Attn: Paul N. Dahlie

PO Box 1295

Livingston Manor, NY 12758

email: flyfish@catskill.net

website: www.cffcm.org

Phone: 914-439-4810

Fax: 914-439-3387

The Center will display all flies received over the course of the year whether you are just starting out or tying 1,000 dozen over the course of the winter (yes professional tyers can crank that many out!).

WHO ARE WE?

This Newsletter continuously refers to "we". You may wonder who we actually is (or are?). We are you. This is your chapter. Lets make the most of it! If you have something to contribute please do so.

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE TEAM

The folks who "run" the chapter are:

Bill Bullock – President

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Matt Glerum – Past President

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Please feel free to contact us with any thoughts, ideas, suggestions.