



BACKLASH

Capital District Fly Fishers

Conserving – Restoring – Educating
Through Fly Fishing



May 2007

President's Message

Well, spring seems to finally be here. Now we fair weather fly fishers can get out on the water. The weather may have delayed some of the spawning, so good luck to everyone.

It has been said to me that change is constant and inevitable; this is true with us. We will be changing our meeting location and night, come September. We will be meeting at the VFW just down the road from the Polish Community Center and the night will be the 3rd Wednesday of the month. So mark your calendars with the change.

We are looking forward for your input on favorite flies, book reviews, ideas or experiences for our newsletter. Send them to myself or to Eric Kroth.

Don't forget that there are events that require your help such as the Take a Vet Fishing and the Saratoga County Fair. The Casting Clinic is coming up in May, as well as our On The Water meetings, so check the events listing at the end of the newsletter or the website and mark your calendar.

Don't forget we are meeting at the 6 Mile Water Works for our monthly meeting. This will be the last meeting on the second Wednesday of the month and the last till September. We will be hearing from Bill Donato about the history of fly fishing in the area and John Prokorym on Spey Casting.

See you there
Paul Sinicki
President

May Meeting

Six Mile Water Works, May 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Two Meetings in One!!!

Spey 101 – Introduction to Spey Casting – John Prokorym will introduce us to the two-handed rod (Hello, rod!)

Capital District Fly Fishing History – Bill Donato will enlighten us on this area's contributions to fly fishing.

No Fly Tyer's Corner

Lightning Date for Spey Casting: May 16th

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Click here to go to the [FFF Web Page](#)

Click here to [Email FFF](#).

Upcoming events:

June 26th, Tuesday – Take a Vet Fishing, Six Mi. Water Works, Albany. Last year's event was a big success. Come out and support our veterans. Bring extra fishing gear of any sort – we know you have it.

July 17th – 21st – Saratoga County Fair. Come out and help promote the sport of fly fishing and the club while tying some flies. Give an hour at the table, and get a day at the Fair!

For more information, contact Paul Sinicki or Rodney Priddle.

Bug Dope for your Fly Tying Chest

Fly tiers have used mothballs for years. However, recent studies have indicated that both para-dichlorobenzene and naphthalene used in mothballs may be linked to illnesses, including **cancer**.

Herbal pest repellent is still available to protect all of your tying supplies and whole house from Wild Thyme Whole Food & Tea.

CONTACT:

Wild Thyme Whole Food & Tea
108 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 885-7275

On The Water Meetings...

June 13th – Six Mile Water Works (Rensselaer Lake) – Fly Fishing Games

July 11th – Round Lake – warm water pond

For more info, contact Paul Sinicki

August 8 – Cohoes Falls – wading safety lesson disguised as a fishing trip

For more info, contact John Prokorym

The Holiday Party is coming!!!

Okay, so it's not exactly just around the corner, but it's not too early to be thinking about prize donations for the Holiday Party in December. Every year, the club relies on generous donations from its resourceful members. Fishing tackle, boxes of flies, float-tubes, etc. are nice, but so are some different gift ideas. My wife had several tickets in for some scarves from Louise Priddle. So, get thinking about the Party Raffle, as well as the shows and meetings for next year.

Alert!!! Special Meeting Location for May Meeting!

Six Mile Water Works (Rensselaer Lake) in Albany at 7:00

Spey Casting Demo and Local Fly Fishing History

TYING CORNER – Drowned Ant

Article by Eric Schubert - North Idaho Fly Casters Club

Illustrations by Adrian Jund - North Idaho Fly Casters Club

One of the most important food sources for trout is the lowly ant. Ants can be found around rivers and lakes throughout most of the year. They are easily blown into the water by the wind and then swept downstream by the river currents and consumed by hungry trout. Aquatic biologists confirm this finding by examining the stomach contents of fish; ants just seem to be in great supply.

Author Edwin O. Wilson, writing in the *The Naturalist* has this to say: "By my estimate, between 1 and 100 million billion ants are alive at any moment, all of them together weighing to the nearest order of magnitude, as much as the totality of human beings."

Like all insects, ants have six legs, and each leg has three joints. The legs of an ant are very strong; they can run very quickly. If a man could run as fast for his size as an ant can, he could run as fast as a racehorse. The folks who study ants also tell us that an ant brain has about 250,000 brain cells; the human brain has about 10,000 million. That means that a colony of 40,000 ants has collectively the same sized brain as a human. Ants have a life expectancy of about 45-60 days; perhaps this statistic is impacted by voracious trout.

Because ants are such an available food source for trout, fly fishers will generally carry an assortment of ant flies in their fly boxes. Our Fly of the Month, the Drowned Ant, is an effective design from the vise of Grant Saprionoff, a fly tier from British Columbia. Grant began his fly tying under the tutelage of his father and uncle. His patterns were refined after fishing them on the west arm of Kootenay Lake as well as on the Columbia River in British Columbia. Grant is currently assisting his friend Joe Warren with the Canadian portion of a book which features fishing strategies and flies for the Columbia River.

When tying the Drowned Ant, use a Daiichi #1273 hook, or equivalent, Sizes 14-16. The body is composed of three glass beads, the two rear beads being the same size; the front bead is smaller than the rest. Position the beads onto the shank of the hook and secure them with thread and a coating of epoxy. Be sure to leave some space between the two larger and one smaller bead. Tie in two brown hackle tips for the wings at the area between the large and small beads. Complete the fly by wrapping several turns of black hackle in front of the area where the wings are tied in.

Fishing ant patterns is relatively easy. I fish most ant patterns at the bottom of a multiple fly system, with the "wet style" ant being at the bottom. The fly of choice for the upper portion of this rigging system would generally be a soft hackle type. You might even try a dry fly style ant instead of a soft hackle fly at the top. Fish your patterns around weed beds, banks and especially under brush that is overhanging the water's edge. Many ants are blown into the water from overhanging branches and the trout position themselves to intercept the ants that drop in.



THE TYING BENCH

DROWNED ANT

ORIGINATED BY: GRANT SAPRONOFF - BRITISH COLUMBIA

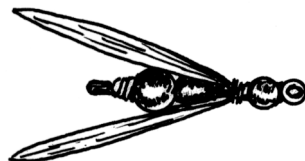
*HOOK: DAIICHI 1273 #14-16
THREAD: 8/0 BLACK
BODY: 2 MEDIUM GLASS BEADS (BLACK)
HEAD: 1 BLACK SMALL GLASS BEAD
WINGS: BROWN HACKLE TIPS (2)
HACKLE: BLACK*

1. SECURE BEADS ONTO HOOK SHANK AS SHOWN, USING TYING THREAD. LEAVE SPACE BETWEEN FRONT AND REAR BEADS. COVER BEADS WITH EPOXY AND ALLOW TO DRY.

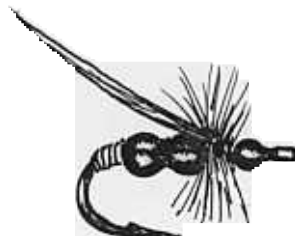
CLEAN OUT EYE



2. TIE IN TWO HACKLE-TIP WINGS, SPLAY WINGS AS SHOWN.



3. TIE IN BLACK HACKLE AND WRAP (WET STYLE) IN FRONT OF HACKLE WINGS.



Upcoming Events Calendar...

Anytime	Go Fishing – Ya got anything better to do?
May 9 Wednesday 7:00 No FTC	Fishing the Spey Rod – John Prokorym will be demonstrating the Spey rod and the many casting techniques available. Special Meeting Location – 6 Mile Water Works. This event Rain or Shine... except for lightning – see May 16th
May 13	Mother's Day
May 16	Lightning date for Spey casting demo
May 19	CDFD Casting Clinic – Clifton Park Commons – Rain date: Sunday, May 20th
	Connecticut – NO FREE FISHING DAYS
May 26	Pennsylvania – Free Fishing Days
June 2-3	Massachusetts – Free Fishing Days
June 3	Pennsylvania – Free Fishing Days
June 9	Vermont – Free Fishing Day
June 13	On the Water Meeting – 6 Mile Water Works – Fly Fishing Games Contact: Paul Sinicki
June 23-24	New York – Free Fishing Days
June 26	Take a Veteran Fishing – 6 Mile Water Works
July 11	OWM – Round Lake – Contact: Paul Sinicki
July 17-22	Saratoga County Fair – Come help promote fly fishing and the club. Tie an hour, enjoy the fair!
August 8	OWM – Cohoes Falls – Contact: John Prokorym
August 13 Monday 6:30	Executive Board Meeting – 76 Diner, Latham Come on along, it's your club, too.
	New Meeting Location, Date and Time!!! VFW #8692 Hall, Rifle Range Road (off New Karner Rd.), 3rd Wed. of the month
September 19 Wednesday 7:00 FTC 6:30	Welcome Back! – Time for the start of meeting season, again. Share your stories, tell tall tales – you'll laugh, you'll cry... Fly Tyer's Corner: Tier: Richard Atkinson
October 17 Wednesday 7:00 6:30 FTC	Bob Barkman – Discussion of New York City DEP and associated issues Fly Tyer's Corner: Disco Minnow Tier: Eric Kroth

Editor's note: I've enjoyed putting together this newsletter for all of you for the last five months. My cat, Snippet (associate editor and director of fly-tying quality control) has also enjoyed having me be stationary for a few hours every month. Have a great, productive summer on the water, and I hope to see many of you at the events we have scheduled. Again, please be thinking of **From the Members...** column ideas. There have to be some great ones out there, and even War and Peace started with something being scribbled on a page. See you on the water...

Eric Kroth

CASTING CLINIC

Sponsored by: Capital District Fly Fishers

**Come and learn to cast the long rod
Bring your own or use one of ours**

Date & Time

Saturday May 19th 1:00pm—3:30

Place

Clifton Common — Clifton Park, NY

Rain Date

Sunday May 20th — Same time!

For information and reservations

Contact

Paul Sinicki—885-8257 or flyfloat@aol.com

Lou Bruno, 237-4636 loubruno@nycap.rr.com

NOTE: All students must bring a hat and eye protection to wear while participating in the casting clinic.

May Meeting

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No Fly Tyer's Corner *Lightning Date for Spey Casting: May 16th*

Upcoming Events

May 19th – Casting Clinic, Clifton Park Commons @ 1:00

June 26th – Take a Veteran Fishing, Six Mile Water Works

July 17-22nd – Saratoga County Fair, 4-H booth

The BACKLASH - Is the official publication of the Capital District Fly Fishers Inc. and is published monthly from September through May, with summer editions as needed.

Submissions for publication **must** be in the editor's hands two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled monthly meeting.

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