



BACKLASH

Capital District Fly Fishers

Conserving – Restoring – Educating
Through Fly Fishing



September 2007

President's Message

Well here it is almost the end of summer and time to get back indoors. The summer was good to me as far as the times I went fishing. I caught something every time I went out. It didn't matter how big, how small, or how many, just that I caught something.

I would like to thank all those who helped at the different events this summer. I wish that I could have attended them all and I was told that the outing with the vets was a great success. They sent us a nice thank you letter and we are planning to do 2 days next year. Thank you to everyone that was there for the great help at the outing. The people at the Saratoga County Fair gave me compliments about everybody that gave some of their time, their expertise was greatly appreciated. With all the compliments and great statements and letters given me, I am proud to be a member of this Club and your President.

Now, on to business. We are returning to our indoor meetings at a new location and a new day. The location is the VFW off of 155 and the new day is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. I hope to see everyone there, don't forget to bring your best or funniest story of the summer. If you plan on telling us about the 300lb bass or brown you caught be prepared to be branded as a TRUE FISHERPERSON with a whopper of a tale.

Up coming events to consider is the tying class starting in January. Consider in advance helping at the Outdoor Show, casting clinic, take a vet fishing day and the Saratoga County Fair just to mention a few of them. These are in the planning stage for next year. Consider volunteering for the nominating committee or running for a position as an officer. You could enjoy it, you'll never know till you try.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Paul Sinicki
President

September Meeting

New Location!

VFW Post 8692, Sept. 19, 7:00 p.m.
140 VFW Drive (off New Karner Road)

New Location!

Welcome Back!!!

Share your stories of a great summer, and of the one that got away... or took your best fly... or the popper you spent two hours on... Well, you get the idea.

Fly Tyer's Corner (6:30) : Richard Atkinson

Fly of the Month: Saltwater Flies

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Complements of the **Albany Times Union**

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

Click here to [Email FFF](#).

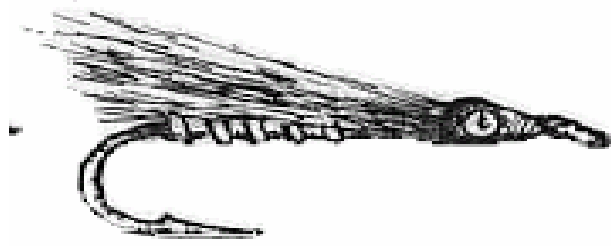
Your help is needed...

Executive Board- It's Nominating Committee time again. The Club needs your help, both in filling seats on the Executive Board, and on the Nominating Committee who finds those people. Don't forget: it's your club, and it doesn't run without you.

Holiday Banquet- The Holiday Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, December 15th at VFW Post# 8692. Your help is needed, as always in the donation of door prizes. We also need your help regarding food service and other planning for the event.

Got any ideas? We'd love to hear them.

For more information, contact Paul Sinicki or Rodney Priddle.



Fly Tier's Guild Starts again in October!!!

Soon, it will be time for the Fly Tier's Guild to reconvene for the fall and winter. This is, for those unfamiliar, a place to get together with friends, swap stories, share ideas, maybe even learn a new technique or two.

This year, we have a new location: the Rudy A. Ciccotti Family Recreation Center, part of the Colonie Youth Center. It is located off of Aviation Drive in Colonie; the easiest way to reach it is to take Metro Park Drive off of Wolf Rd. and then turn left onto Aviation Dr. The Ciccotti Center will be on your left.

Guild meetings usually convene at 18:30 and go to (around) 20:00 every Tuesday night, through the end of March. The first date will be October 2nd, so come on out, limber up those fingers, and show us a thing or two. Check the club website for more info.

For more on the Ciccotti Center: <http://www.coloniyouthcenter.org>

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

**VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Monday August 6, 2007

Contact:

Brad Wright (802) 241-3609

Rich Langdon (802) 241-1379

A Small Amount of Didymo Found in Batten Kill River

Fishermen, boaters warned to disinfect all clothing and equipment coming into contact with a stream

Waterbury, Vt. – Vermont Agency of Natural Resources biologists spotted a small amount of didymo algae late last week in the Batten Kill in southern Vermont, near the New York border. This is the newest confirmed location of the insidious, invasive species also known as rock snot.

The discovery of Didymo in the Batten Kill is of particular concern because it is a renowned fishery with several outfitter organizations working in its watershed. It also features many forms of recreation including kayaking, canoeing and tubing.

Of seven locations in the main stem of the Batten Kill which were inspected by Vermont ANR scientists last week, only one contained suspicious growth which was later confirmed to be *didymosphenia geminata*.

It now appears that didymo has been in our region longer than first thought. Last year, the Batten Kill Conservancy's River Watch Program in New York State discovered an algae bloom in the river which extended about two miles beginning near the Route 22 bridge. As a result of Vermont and New Hampshire's education campaign, samples of this bloom have now been confirmed by scientists from Vermont ANR, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and a national didymo expert in Colorado as didymo. It should be noted that no such masses have been found this year.

International experts will be attending a conference on didymo algae later this month in Montreal. "Vermont's scientists will be requesting meetings with their New Hampshire and New York counterparts to develop a regional response plan," said George Crombie, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Small amounts of didymo have also been found in the upper Connecticut River and the White River.

Didymo is an invasive species of algae that threatens fish habitat as well as aquatic insect populations that fish depend on for food. It usually has cotton-like feel if you touch it. When water levels recede, didymo in dried masses can resemble rotting cardboard.

Anyone with fishing or boating gear that comes into contact with streams is strongly urged to disinfect it carefully. Hard surfaces such as boat bottoms should be thoroughly scrubbed and dried. Fishing gear and any soft material such as clothing should be soaked in hot, soapy water for at least 30 minutes. Felt soled waders are believed to be particularly efficient at spreading this type of algae and should be disinfected thoroughly and dried thoroughly before re-use.

For more information about didymo, including pictures of what it looks like, go to www.vtwaterquality.org

From The Members... You write, we publish...

What little I know about Fishing in Rensselaer County

By Thomas Bortscheller

Let me start off by saying that I'm new to fly fishing, but I like it a lot and I like to try new fishing spots whenever I can. In the hopes that other members of the club like to explore new waters, here are my favorite fishing spots in Rensselaer County. I hope you can make it out to some of them.

The Poestenkill (*take Rt. 2 out to Garfield Road*): I have to start with the small stream where I first used a fly rod. The only thing I caught that first time out was a love of fly fishing, and a small sun burn. Once you are on Garfield Road (just off of Rt. 2), drive a few miles and you will see a marked fishing pull-off near a small bridge. The Poestenkill is a small bushy stream. If you can cast 20 feet and keep your flies out of the bushes you'll do okay on the Poestenkill. Opening day and "when the stocking truck arrives" are the only two times I've ever seen a crowd on the Poestenkill. When the water is not overly high from run off, most of the stream is 2 to 3 feet high, with 2 very deep pools less than 300 ft down from the parking area. At times (mainly low water) you can spot a few trout by just walking along the side of the stream. I can't tell you all the hatches, but gray caddis, stone flies, black nose dace have worked. Also, there is an odd green inchworm "hatch" and when that happens, it's have a green worm fly on your line or go home without a trout time. I would also be remiss not to mention that the heat of the summer is not the time to go, the near by farm has some of the best manure I have ever smelled. There are two other access points to the Poestenkill that I know of. One is down Creek Road off of Rt. 2 and the other is behind the Poestenkill Fire House (on Rt 355). Enjoy, and watch those bushes.

The Hoosick River (*where Rt. 7 and Rt. 22 meet, very near Vermont*): My friends and I park near the bridge and walk down the steep hill. There is also a pull off parking area; follow the river (Rt. 22) going toward Columbia County. The Hoosick is a large unstocked river. It has the oddest breed of hold over German Rainbows. They look like browns with a racing stripe. The river was polluted years ago by a dye factory, so catch and release is best for you and the fish. If you are going to wade at all in the Hoosick be very careful. The river is fast and very deep in parts. That being said, it is cool in the summer, and if you like being able to cast out a long way this river might be for you. I have seen 20-inch plus trout pulled out of the Hoosick, but keep in mind these fish have never seen a pellet before (they have intensely "smart" trout brains). I have had luck with a black nose dace, a white fly I don't know the name of, and brown woolly bugger. Also, it can be a bit of a climb out if you park near the bridge, so you should leave before it gets very dark and bring a flash light.

The Tackawasick Creek (*Rt. 66, past Hoags Corners, as you travel to Rt. 20*): There is a parking area across from the East Nassau Post Office (yes it is that far out there). This little area of the stream gets well stocked and, as I found out this year, that stocking sometimes takes place after April 1st. It is a small stream, with very good access from the shore line. Here you may see more than a few spin casters on a given weekend. Wading in the little stream is not as simple as it might look; it has a deep center in some parts, and a lot of very big rocks on the bottom. If you wade into the creek on the right side of the pulloff as you are looking at the creek, it is basically flat and only a few feet high at normal water level. I have caught many trout out of this little section of water. Try fishing near the riffles at dusk with a Mickey Finn. This is one of those areas where DEC puts some of the big ones. If you follow the creek upstream and up

Tayer road there is a pull off marked fishing area by a waterfall that is just fun to fish. As for what flies to use: grasshoppers, ants, Mickey Finn and whatever is hatching (I have also seen those aforementioned green inchworms).

The last two fishing spots are lakes. If you are starting with a fly rod or want a change, try a lake. The little known **Reichard Lake**, on Rt. 351 (look for the swimming beach of West Sand Lake), is my all- time favorite lake to fish. It is small, and no gas motors are allowed on it. I think part of the reason I like it is, my teenage daughter can swim while I fish (priceless). There is an overly large Sunny (blue gill) population, take some please. They are fun to catch on poppers. I've read that fishing for bluegills is called "Gilling," which sounds so much better they going to catch Sunnies. What I fish for there is the bass. There are some nice ones there. On a hot summer night two years ago, I caught a 21" bass right off the beach. I put it back and have been looking for it each year when I go back. Very rare is the time I walk away without catching a bass. Make sure that with a fly or spin caster to go weedless. The other lake I like to fish is **Long Pond in Grafton State Park**. It is a glacier lake, so the water is very clear and cold, and there isn't a lot of plant life. You can rent a boat, or bring you own boat to the back side of the lake. It is one of the nicest lakes just to be out on (once you get away from the beach). It is also stocked with lake trout.

My hope in writing about some of my favorite places to fish is that you will go out and fish them for yourself. If you do and you hook up with a nice fish out there, please let me know the fly you used☺.

From the Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Center:

Dear Paul and Friends;

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful outing that you sponsored on Tuesday, June 26th, 2007. The veterans that were able to attend the evening activity are still talking about how much they enjoyed it. One veteran in particular, with whom you have been so gracious to share your telephone number for further information, can not stop beaming about "relearning how to fish, and this time the right way!"

As we continue to strive to provide our veterans with the best possible care, it is rewarding to work with groups like yourselves in that process. We look forward to working with you again in the future and appreciate any contact you have with our veterans before that.

Sincerely;

Michele Ferrauilo, CTRS
Recreation Therapist

Rebecca Linehan, RTA
Recreation Assistant

Upcoming Events Calendar...

September 19 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	VFW Post 8692, 140 VFW Drive (off New Karner Road) Welcome back – Featured Tier – Richard Atkinson – Saltwater Flies
September 24 Monday 6:30	E-Board meeting - Latham 76 Dinner, Latham NY. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend - It's your club, come join us and share your thoughts!!!
October 2 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
October 9 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
October 16 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
October 17 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	VFW Post 8692, 140 VFW Drive, Colonie Bob Barkman – Behavior of wild brown trout in a stream: the effects of food, “cover”, and hatchery trout Featured Tier – Eric Kroth – “Disco Minnow” ... or something neat...
October 23 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
October 30 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
November 6 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
November 13 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
November 20 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
November 21 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	VFW Post 8692, 140 VFW Drive, Colonie Care and feeding of Equipment – JP Featured Tier – John Prokorym – Streamer (Rookie)
November 27 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
December 4 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
December 11 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
December 15th Saturday 7:00 Meeting	CDFD Annual Holiday Party, VFW Post 8692, 140 VFW Drive, Colonie Jay Fullum – John Prokorym to confirm
December 18 Tuesday 6:30	Fly Tier's Guild – Ciccotti Recreation Center, Colonie Please note the new location!!!
January 16 Wednesday 6:30 FTC 7:00 Meeting	DEC Conservation Officer – Paul to contact soon to determine lead time. Featured Tier – Paul Sinicki – Anything Cripple

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Upcoming Events

October 18th – Meeting – Bob Barkman: Behavior of wild brown trout in a stream

October Tuesdays – Fly Tying Guild, Ciccotti Recreation Center

December 15th – CDFF Holiday Party

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.

Capital District Fly Fishers
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