



Adirondack Guide **Rich Garfield** with a Fall 2010 Landlocked Salmon
For More Great Pictures of Super Fish in the Northern NY Area See Rich's Website at
www.flyfishtheadirondacks.com

Clearwater Currents

**The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter
of
Trout Unlimited
169 Old Niskayuna Road Latham, NY 12110**

Issue No. 10-11

December, 2010



*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization
Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon*

*During 2009 Trout Unlimited Celebrated Its 50th Year Fighting for
Coldwater Fisheries Conservation*

Join us before each meeting at 6:30pm for a tying demonstration. Meetings begin at 7:30pm, the third Monday of each month (except Banquet month, July and August), at the Best Western on Western Avenue, Albany, NY (about a mile east of the end of the Northway).

Upcoming Events

December 20	Chapter General Meeting – Fly Tiers Roundtable – Start at 6:30PM
March 5, 2011	Chapter Banquet – Start thinking about how you can help in our biggest fundraiser!
March 26, 2011	Chapter Flea Market

Board of Directors/Staff

President	Mike Walchko	234-4192	Trips	Bob Mead	399-9000
V President			Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793
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Trout/Classroom	Stan Duncan	877-6610	Membership	Dick Hermida	399-6272
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Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Jessica Galasso	716-913-5550
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Website	Bill Wemple	384-0014	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309
www.ClearwaterTU.org

Fish of the Month 2010 Winner Announced

Mark A Brown

The Clearwater Currents is happy to announce that the winner of the 2010 Clearwater Currents Fish of the Month is **Noe Mead**, grandchild of **Bob Mead**. For Noe's efforts at hauling in his first fish he will receive one dozen hand tied flies from the newsletter editor. To see Noe's awarded winning fish see the July 2010 edition of the 'Currents. The Chapter's Fish of the Month Contest is already in its third year having crowned **Jim Berry** and **Bill Bach** as winners in its first two years. The contest is open to all members (except me!) and their children of the Chapter and is not necessarily based on the biggest fish, but the quality of the fish, story behind it and picture quality all make up a winning entry. Simply send a photograph to me at my email address at brownie6@nycap.rr.com or contact me for my mailing address if you have a Polaroid or 35mm shot. As the entries come I'll publish them in the newsletter and select a winner in December when the winner will get a dozen hand tied flies as a prize. Starting next month the contest starts all over again so get fishing and photographing your catch!

Chapter Fly Swap

Ron Boutin

Another year of fly swapping is upon us and starts at the Chapter meeting in April. Bring in 13 of the current months category and get 13 back of the same category from other tiers in the Chapter. It's a great way to build your fly boxes and try some new flies. New ideas are always welcome as to what you want swapped so call me at 453-9843 or email me at rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com if you have further questions or ideas.

Dec Your "Go To" Fly

Chapter Monthly Meeting

The Clearwater Chapter's December Meeting will be a fly tiers roundtable. As in past December's this is a great time to see some of the area's best tiers tying up what works. This is a great time to ask questions and learn in a fun, relaxed setting. If you can bring a snack or beverage to share with others, that would be wonderful.

Meeting is free and open to the public – at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel – one mile east of the end of the Northway. Meeting starts at 6:30pm with guest tier and about 7:30pm with the guest speaker.

Clearwater Chapter Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Classes 2011

Fly Tying Classes 2011

Beginners Tue. Jan. 11 thru Tue. March 1

Advanced Thu. Jan. 13 Thru Thu. March 3

Cost: \$65 checks made payable to TU Clearwater Chapter.

Fly Fishing Class 2011

Tue. March 29 Thru Tue. May 10

On the water May 14 or 15 weather permitting.

Cost: \$135 for TU members \$150 for non-members, which includes a one year membership. Checks made payable to TU Clearwater Chapter.

All classes will go from 7-9 pm as usual. The location will be St. Joseph's Parish Center in Scotia.

Any questions, please contact **Rich Bogardus** at 377-1022 or richaril@yahoo.com

Send payments to:

Rich Bogardus

1123 Helderberg Ave.

Schenectady, NY 12306

Stream Restoration Class in May 2011

Once again the Chapter has the opportunities to send volunteers to this wonderful class focusing on restoring coldwater streams. Clearwater volunteers have gone before and are a great asset to our stream conservation efforts. If you are interested please call **Roy Lamberton** at 872-2217.



Folks, we are already planning next year's Trout Waters Youth Camp. Now, is the time to plan to find another successful candidate or the first from your chapter. For those from the past, we thank you for your excellent choices. **Kurt Nelson** and the staff have enjoyed the experiences and if you would like to, contact Kurt or talk with him at a NY TU General Council meeting. Attached is the newest brochure. For those chapters that send financial support we are equally indebted with a thank you. I look forward to the experience again in 2011. We recently received an email from this year's student who is proud that he can now cast decently up to 50 feet. This is for someone that never fished before much less fly casting. Kurt can be contacted at avkurt@mac.com or (607) 372-6330 – For more information check out the camps website at : <http://web.mac.com/avkurt/Site2/TroutWaters.html>

Ron Urban, Chairman
NY Trout Unlimited Council

Upcoming Fly Fishing/Outdoor Shows

For the complete list please go to www.flyfishingshow.com – here are a few of the most popular to Clearwater readers –

**Marlborough, MA
January 14, 15, 16
Royal Plaza**

**Somerset, NJ
January 21, 22, 23
Garden State Convention Center**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 5,6
Valley Forge Convention Center**

Bart Chabot - AWARD WINNER

Volunteer with disabilities fishes for bright side of life

BY ANGELA CAVE
STAFF WRITER

When life casts shadows on **Bart Chabot**, his resilience usually wins. Partial blindness led to a new career. Losing a leg led to a vocation of volunteerism.

All of it, he says, was in God's plan.

Now 71, Mr. Chabot recently received a national award from Trout Unlimited, the coldwater fisheries conservation group where he's volunteered for three decades. Add that to the work he's done as a Boy Scouts of America leader, a Northeastern Woodworkers Association member and a rehabilitation hospital volunteer, and he's a busy man.

"There's not enough time in a day. Quite honestly, I think I'm going to be cloned," Mr. Chabot joked. "You've got to make yourself get up and do things."

That's also his message for amputees he counsels at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady and other hospitals and nursing homes.

"I tell them that life has not ended," he said — adding that he usually shocks the patients at the end of a visit when he lifts his pant leg to reveal his own prosthetic limb.

"It's all above the eyebrow. God's only going to give you challenges that you can handle, and how you deal with them shows you what you're made of."

His visits stem from his pastoral care work at St. John the Evangelist Church in Schenectady, where he and his wife are parishioners.

Home waters

Mr. Chabot leads Trout Unlimited fishing trips for elderly veterans and people with physical and mental disabilities, in addition to lobbying for docks and access to fishing waters for disabled people.

"We've put a smile on a lot of people's faces," said the busy volunteer. "And there's the reward right there."

Mr. Chabot also participates in the Trout in the Classroom program, teaching high school and college students about ecosystems; water cleanliness; preserving salmon, steelhead and trout populations; and stimulating the growth of amphibians.

"I do enjoy trout, and those species can't survive in polluted water," he explained. "Anything we can do — even miniscule [efforts] — will be of benefit."

Mr. Chabot leads fishing clinics for Schenectady children, teaches Boy Scouts about the catch-and-release method of fishing and sets up programs at wildlife festivals to demonstrate fly casting and tying flies.

Douglas Howard, immediate past president of the Clearwater chapter of Trout Unlimited, called Mr. Chabot a "pied piper" in educating youth on conservation.

Mr. Chabot and hundreds of other Trout Unlimited members spend their free time fishing across New York State and elsewhere. They monitor vegetation, rock structure and trout so the state Department of Environmental Conservation knows how to classify streams.

Over the past 100 years, about 90 percent of brook trout habitats have been destroyed, Mr. Howard noted.

Bart's background

When he was 12 years old, Mr. Chabot caught 79 herring with a net on the Charles River in eastern Massachusetts.

"I just said, 'This is a good thing,'" he remembered. "I got hooked on fishing."

He started fly fishing in the early 1960s and joined Trout Unlimited in the early 1970s.

Mr. Chabot's first career was kitchen remodeling. He planned to return to it after he finished serving as an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Air Force in 1959, but an off-duty construction accident blinded him in his left eye and left the right eye weak for years.

So he went into hairstyling — where he met his wife, Lorraine. The couple married within a year.

"I just couldn't say no. I think it was fate that I ended up in that particular trade because I wouldn't have met her" otherwise, Mr. Chabot said.

After owning his own salon, he returned to remodeling after his good eye recovered. Then, in 1982, while working on a construction site, a truck crushed his right leg. After 30 operations, doctors decided to amputate. Side effects left him with an inner ear disruption and insulin-controlled diabetes.

"Other than that, I'm the picture of health," he told The Evangelist with good humor. "I'm lucky to be here, so I have to thank God and I have to be optimistic."

His optimism seems contagious.

"His handicaps were not a handicap to him," said Mr. Howard, who has known Mr. Chabot since the mid-1980s. "He's just a lively member. Everybody feels good around him."

From the Entire Staff at the Clearwater Currents We Wish You and Yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – See You in 2011!



Third Annual

Southern Appalachian Fly Tying Championship

Sponsored By: Trout Unlimited Chapter 692

Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

See www.ngatu692.com for full details

The Rules:

The contest is open to everyone. There is a \$10 entry fee. To enter you must tie and submit two flies. The first fly, the MANDATORY fly, is The Tellico Nymph, pictured below along with the recipe. The second fly, the TIEBREAKER, is any fly of your choice. You must also submit the recipe for your TIEBREAKER and it must be a fly that you would fish. (All flies submitted become the property of Trout Unlimited Chapter 69

Tellico Nymph

Hook: Your Favorite Nymph Hook #12 - 16

Thread: Black 8/0

Tail: Guinea Body Feathers

Shellback: Ringneck Pheasant Tail Fibers

Rib: Peacock Herl

Body: Yellow Floss

Hackle: Furnace



Send your flies, Tiebreaker recipe and \$10 entry fee (check or money order payable to 'TU 692') to:

TU #692 TYING CHAMPIONSHIP

DOUG REID

355 Owassa Road

Murphy, NC 28906

Entries must be postmarked by February 23, 2011. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. (Your personal information will not be shared.)

A panel of judges from Trout Unlimited Chapter 692 will score all mandatory flies and select the top 20. The *Tiebreakers* of the top 20 will be scored by the judges and the combined weighted scores received by both the mandatory and tie breaker flies will be used to determine the winners. The winners will be announced at the March 10, 2011 Chapter Meeting. The names of the winners will be posted on our website: www.ngatu692.com.

Trout Unlimited Chapter 692 was founded in 2003 to promote conservation and protection of our rivers and streams.

Fish stocking to drop in spring **November 23, 2010 - By MIKE LYNCH, Enterprise Outdoors Writer**

Spring fish stocking will be down next year because of cutbacks at the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

That's what Conservation Fund Advisory Board Chairman Jason Kemper told the state Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee at last Thursday's hearing on the DEC's staffing and program reductions.

"The fall egg take has been reduced, and the spring stocking that normally occurs across the state will be significantly reduced," states a written copy of Kemper's testimony. "The egg take at Adirondack hatchery (in Lake Clear) for the landlock(ed) salmon has been reduced by 50 percent because of budget shortfalls and staffing shortages. This will result in 700,000 fewer landlocked salmon stocked to the state's water bodies."

Kemper said that for the first time since 1976, egg take has not occurred in Raquette Lake for the Adirondack strain of lake trout. He said this will result in 115,000 fewer lake trout being stocked throughout the Adirondacks.

He also said the DEC will be forced to introduce hatchery fish prematurely this fall due to staff shortages, increasing the mortality rate of these fish. Kemper said CFAB has this information because they were briefed by DEC fisheries staff.

These reductions in services come one year after annual fishing licenses increased from \$19 to \$29 statewide to make up for what was a shortfall in the Conservation Fund, a primary source of funding for the DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife, Marine Resources. License fees - which also increased for hunting licenses - are the primary source of funding for the Conservation Fund.

"Due to financial shortfalls in the Conservation Fund, the sportsmen community was faced with a dilemma about a year and a half ago," Kemper's testimony states. "Either they would need to pay increased or additional fees - approximately 20 to 30 percent - or they would see a diminished level of service over what they have received in the past. Reluctantly, the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, on behalf of license buyers, stepped up to the plate to support the license fee increase with the expectation and guarantee that there would be no decrease in the level of service of non-personal service costs from previous years."

But Kemper says there has been a reduction of service even though there was a surplus of \$17 million in the Conservation Fund as of early October; the surplus is projected to be more than \$20 million next spring. Kemper says this money should be used to backfill hatchery staff positions, which are down statewide from 80 to 67.

DEC in Albany would not take the Enterprise's questions on this issue because its spokespeople are required to redirect budget questions to the state Division of Budget. DOB spokesman Erik Kriss said the reduction in fish stocking is part of Albany's overall reform plan.

"One of the things DEC's doing and one of the things a lot of other agencies will be doing in the coming months is reorganizing, if you will, redesigning how they deliver their programs, reinventing how the agency functions, reforming," Kriss said. "DEC is going to be looking at the Conservation Fund to fund other functions so that those functions can continue to be maintained."

Kriss said those functions would be fish and wildlife programs that are "consistent with the Conservation Fund's mission." He said it's too early to say what other purposes the money could serve. He said the reduction in staff and services is simply a reflection of the difficult economic times.

"We certainly appreciate the argument that fish stocking activity helps local economies," Kriss said. "A lot of things that state government does, including employing people, helps local governments, but when we are faced with a looming nine-to-10-billion-dollar deficit; when we've been facing these problems incessantly, over and over again, for the last couple of years as part of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, we have had to cut things back, and it's just the simple fact of life."

But some in the fishing industry like Chris Williamson, who owns Jones Outfitters in Lake Placid, said that fish stocking brings in more money than it costs.

"These are hard economic times; I know that as well as anyone," Williamson said. "I think sometimes the cuts are made without maybe looking at the money that it generates. ... If you're talking about lake trout stocking, there's people fishing for lake trout all over the Adirondacks. If they're not coming, then they're not spending money."

Contact **Mike Lynch** at 891-2600 ext. 28 or mlynch@adirondackdailyenterprise.com.

Fine Furniture Quality Fly Tiers Chest – Banquet Raffle Item

Here is a 2nd generation fly tiers chest based on an earlier prototype built in 1989 which has been used successfully for over 20 years. This improved design builds on the success of the first. The chest can become a part of anyone's home furnishing. When closed, it becomes a fine piece of furniture housing all your fly tying materials and tools discreetly in your living space. There's no need to have a separate room or a cluttered kitchen or diningroom table for your fly tying station. Guests will want to know what piece of furniture it is, and conveniently the conversation will then turn to fly tying!

The chest was built by woodworker and fly fisher of 30+ years **Larry Kalac**, 78, of Pringle, Pennsylvania.

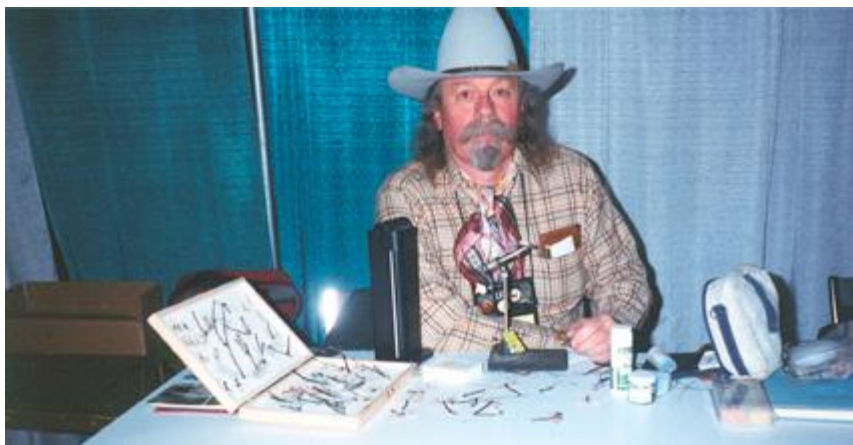
The material is 3/8" and 1/2" poplar, a semi hardwood that will darken to a golden brown with exposure to indirect light. Stain is Bartleys Gel Stain in fruitwood and two coats of Minwax polyurethane, with a rubbed waxed finish. Raised Panel construction and dove-tailed drawers. An Ornate, corniced lid conveniently stores lengthy materials and fly tying vises. The false front on the chest doubles as a desktop with a recessed 1/8" cork work surface for easy lifting of hooks and other small materials. An eye-level, center opening provides room for more storage bins, fly boxes or fly tying books. A removable work lamp or magnifier (not included) can be mounted almost anywhere on the framework of the chest or desktop. Weight is 40lbs. Outside dimensions are 28W x 30H x 16D. Price is \$1400.

Hardware includes:

Brass, full length piano hinge for lid
Usable space inside the lid is 10" x 26" x 3" deep
Shock cords inside lid for efficient storage of long hackle capes, pheasant tails, and fly vises
German made brass locking mechanism
Two keys
2 dubbing drawers with adjustable dividers for a total of 32 compartments for dubbing or finished flies
2 hook drawers with adjustable dividers for a total of 24 compartments for hooks
1 vertical hook drawer with 12 removable hook bins for your most commonly used hooks
1 vertical tying thread drawer
2 drawers 6" x 8" x 5" deep. Deep enough to store items packed in 4" wide polybags on end
4 drawers 6" x 8" x 4" deep. Deep enough to store items packed in 3" wide polybags on end
1 vertical thread drawer with the capacity for 35 spools of thread, tinsel, or wire
1 blank vertical drawer can be customized after purchase
1/8" thick cork work surface
Solid brass drawer knobs
Solid brass door knobs
Brass carrying handles attached to sides can be provided as a custom option
Fly tying materials, tools and fly tying vise for display purposes only, not included.



Fly tying a hobby and an art form for Hillsdale's Bill Newcomb



Bill Newcomb of Hillsdale has taken up fly tying since retiring. His fly ties can be purchased as unique gifts for the fishermen or women in the family. (Contributed photo)

By Lindsay Suchow Hudson-Catskill Newspapers

Published:

Friday, December 10, 2010 2:11 AM EST

“I grew up around here — there wasn’t a lot to do,” said Bill Newcomb, 65, of his childhood in Columbia County.

But the abundance of bodies of water in his life — between the Roeliff Jansen Kill, Copake Lake and his years in the U.S. Navy (which enabled him to take fishing excursions in Virginia, Florida, Maine and even the Caribbean and Cuba) — led to the development of Newcomb’s affinity for fly fishing, and eventually, the art of fly tying.

“It costs 20 bucks for six flies, and one day I was watching this guy tie them, and I said, ‘I could do that,’” said Newcomb.

But his love for fly ties grew into quite an undertaking — and soon, his investment in creating fly ties far outweighed the initial savings.

“In 40 years, I must have spent \$50,000 to \$60,000 trying to get that 20 bucks back,” he said.

Newcomb has been making fly ties on and off since he was in his 20s, and when he retired from the state Department of Mental Hygiene at age 45 after 20 years of service, his hobby became a cornerstone of his life.

“When I retired, I decided to go into it really heavy and do this all the time,” said Newcomb. “I could do it every day, for a couple of hours a day.”

He said his main inspiration in the art of fly tying has been his friend Bill Millard, who Newcomb has known for about 20 years.

“I did a lot on my own, but [Millard] always taught me the little nuances — the finer points,” said Newcomb. “He was my teacher — he taught me a lot. He probably forgot more about tying flies than most people know.”

While Newcomb has one fly tie pattern that he designed himself — Victoria’s Dragon, which is in the shape of a dragonfly and named after Newcomb’s granddaughter. “Since I spend all my money on fly tie equipment, I want to leave [Victoria] a pattern, because I don’t have any money left,” said Newcomb — most of his designs have remained the same for hundreds of years. He feels it’s best not to mess with perfection.

“They have recipes for certain flies that have been around for years and years,” said Newcomb. “We learn from other tiers, or read books.”

One book in particular — “The Dry Fly in Fast Weather” by George LaBranche — was of particular significance to Newcomb, especially considering that LaBranche had a summer estate about eight miles from where Newcomb lives. Newcomb’s “claim to fame” is “The George LaBranche Fly.”

“I fished the same waters he fished,” said Newcomb. “The pattern is 100 years old — I try to carry on the tradition.”

Another one of Newcomb’s signature fly ties, the Catskill Pattern, uses no synthetic materials and looks incredibly realistic.

“They have to look like bugs — it’s very hard,” said Newcomb. “You make it what it is — it’s feathers, fur ... Some of the tiers go to the hobby shop or the dollar store, and you pick up anything that looks like a bug. Anything you think a fish would bite.”

Many people make earrings out fly ties, Newcomb said, while others frame them and give them away.

“It’s an art form,” said Newcomb of fly tie making. “I don’t make any money at it, but I’m not starving — I don’t think I’m an artist. I do it for a hobby.”

His fly tie making has never really materialized into a profitable venture for Newcomb, but he’s happy all the same. He even winds up giving away most of his fly ties at the various shows where he appears with his collection, including upcoming visits to Marlboro, Massachusetts on Jan. 14, 15 and 16 and Somerset, New Jersey on Jan. 21, 22 and 23 for the Fly Fishing Show — the world’s largest show dedicated to fly fishing.

Although Newcomb ties trout flies, they can be used for all kinds of fish, he said. His styles include the Pink Lady — which represents the Hendrickson Dry Fly pattern— the Adirondack Fly, the Royal Coachman and a fly pattern called the Usual.

“Neither one of those flies (the Coachman or the Usual) look like anything in the insect kingdom, but they are killer,” said Newcomb. “Fish really go for them.”

If you are interested in purchasing fly ties from Newcomb as a gift for your fly fishing enthusiast friend, give him a call at 518-392-5932.

