



Noe Mead, grandson of Chapter  
Member Bob Mead, with his first  
fish! Summer, 2010 Fish of the  
Month Winner

Clearwater  
Chapter  
*Clearwater Currents*

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

Issue No. 10-07

Summer, 2010



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

*During 2009 Trout Unlimited Celebrated Its 50<sup>th</sup> 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

September 13

Chapter General Meeting – Guest Speaker and Fly Tier

## Board of Directors/Staff

President	Doug Howard	399-8566	Trips	Bob Mead	399-9000
V.President	Rich Bogardus	377-1022	Treasurer	Ken Waldie	573-4793
Education	Rich Bogardus	377-1022	Ex-Officio	Ron Boutin	453-9843
Secretary	Brad Mohr	482-4645	Youth	Bart Chabot	393-9918
Conservation	Roy Lamberton	872-2217	Newsletter	Mark Brown	<a href="mailto:brownie6@nycap.rr.com">brownie6@nycap.rr.com</a>
Stream Research	Art Coleman	399-5550	Programs	Heath Clayson	573-6008
Quartmaster	Doug Howard	399-8566	Flea Market	Bob Mead	399-9000
Schoharie	Ed August	295-7663	Membership	John Morette	393-6443
At Large	Stan Duncan	877-6610	Membership	Dick Hermida	399-6272
Video Library	Richard Atkinson	377-8249	Youth	Mike Walchko	234-4192
Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Jessica Galasso	716-913-5550
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet Co-Chair	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Website	Bill Wemple	384-0014	Publicity	Bill Wemple	384-0014

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[www.ClearwaterTU.org](http://www.ClearwaterTU.org)

## Fish of the Month Summer 2010

Mark A Brown

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](mailto: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.

*This month's winner is **Noe Mead** who caught his first fish, a pumpkinseed at the Clearwater Chapter manufactured fishing dock in Schenectady's Central Park on July 6, 2010. Fish was released and proud **Grandpa Bob Mead** swears Noe did it all himself, including releasing the fish to fight another day!*

## 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](mailto:rx4fishing@nycap.rr.com) if you have further questions or ideas.

Sept	Blue Wing Olive
Oct	Attractor Flies
Nov	Salmon/Steelhead
Dec	Your "Go To" Fly

## News on the Chapter's Video Library

To see what the Chapter has in its video library go to <http://clearwatertu.org/Library.html> - this is a much easier way to find out if the Chapter has it or not as opposed to waiting for the monthly meeting. Big thanks for putting this online.

## Note to self when fishing, don't do what I did...

I had to go to Brockport for a family picnic this past weekend. I took my nephew Chris to fish Spring Creek in Caledonia (near Mumford, SW of Rochester). Water temps were 58 degrees, very nice night.

Was fishing for a bit without much luck so far (it's a tough spring creek), and kept hearing a small splash behind me. I turned and saw a small trout repeatedly splashing next to the edge around a small stick in the algae, slime, etc.

Thinking someone hooked him and broke him off somehow and he was tangled there, I waded over and proceeded to reach under the algae to grab him and help release him. When I stuck my hand in there and grabbed hold of what I thought was the trout and lifted, I realized I was holding onto the body of a very large snake - ~3ft long! Needless to say I was a bit surprised, uttered some slight profanities, and released my hold on it REAL QUICK! The snake was latched onto the trout (about a 4" fish) and fortunately did not let go and turn around and strike at me. It proceeded to take its prey over to the edge to wait until it stopped twitching so it could eat it later on I suppose. It stayed there for quite a while and Chris and I had a good long look at it, but did not know its species then. We knew there were Massasauga Rattlers in the region, but after I looked it up later on, I believe it was a Northern Water Snake I think. So if you see a trout splashing in distress along the edge of a small creek, don't stick your hand in where you can't see and try to rescue it. Lesson learned...

Cheers,

**Bill Wemple**

*Editor's Note – having grown up fishing Spring Creek/Oatka Creek please watch out also for the VERY large crayfish that inhabit these two limestoners. Be very careful reaching under a rock. Thanks for the very sound advice Bill.*

## Wiley's Flies in Rainbow Lake

Originally Published by **Mike Lynch** in

<http://www.adirondackguide.com/articles/article.asp?ArticleID=73>

**Vince Wilcox**, owner of Wiley's Flies, ties a fly pattern in his shop in Rainbow Lake.

Many Adirondack fly-fishing shops are located on major roads, in downtown areas or on major rivers and lakes. Not Wiley's Flies.

This one-room space owned by Vince Wilcox is located off the quiet Rainbow Lake Road, nearly two miles east of the small hamlet of Gabriels. No river runs through its backyard. The road in front primarily gets local traffic and there aren't any walk-ins from foot traffic, unless it's a neighbor stopping by.

If a fly fisherman finds the shop, it's likely because he heard about it first.

But for Wilcox, that's OK. The overhead costs are low, the setting is peaceful, and there are plenty of lesser-known, quality trout fishing spots, such as the Saranac and Salmon rivers, within driving distance.

Wilcox believes that if he creates a high-quality shop loaded with fly-tying materials, tools and flies, the clientele will come to him. There aren't many shops quite like his, he says, noting that he stocks 10,000 flies of 500 varieties. He also sells products from fly-fishing specialists such as Montana Fly Company and Peak Fishing.

"It's a different kind of shop," said the 36-year-old Wilcox, who has a degree in fisheries science from Colorado State College in Fort Collins. "If you're a fly tyer, you're going to like my shop a lot."

A Saranac Lake native, Wilcox started Wiley's Flies in 2003 as an Internet business, two years after having his second open-heart surgery. He was living in Colorado at the time and had been working 70 hours a week at a car dealership for the previous nine years.

"The doctor said, 'That's not going to work for you anymore,'" Wilcox said.

Wilcox has congenital heart disease - he also had heart surgery at age 3 - and decided his best bet for a healthy lifestyle was to get into the fly-fishing industry.

It was a tough adjustment for him the first couple of years after the second open-heart surgery. He had led an active childhood and young adulthood, playing sports in high school, fishing in the backcountry and hiking 14,000-foot peaks. Wilcox has explored national parks like Rocky Mountain, Glacier, and Yellowstone in the United States and Canadian national parks like Banff and Jasper.

After the surgery, he wasn't able to be as physically active, but he hadn't lost his talent as a fisherman and fly tyer. Wilcox had been tying flies on a regular basis since moving to Fort Collins at 22, and he felt his stuff was pretty good.

He started working in a local fishing shop and selling his own flies to various distributors. At that point, he was selling about 15,000 flies a year, sometimes making 800 a week. But that pace got to be too much, so he signed a contract with Idylwilde Flies in 2004 to become a signature tyer, which took some of the pressure off him.

Idylwilde has bought more than two dozen of Wilcox's fly patterns. The company makes and sells them, using Wilcox's name on them and giving Wilcox a percentage of the sales. Some of Wilcox's more well-known flies are the J.C. Special, T.N.T. and Little Green Machine.

Things were going so well that in 2006, Wilcox decided to open his own store in Colorado. But after that fell through, he decided to move back to the Adirondacks with his wife, Andrea, in early 2007 to start up the business here.

He had always enjoyed Adirondack fishing and had grown up fishing with his father, Steve, on the Saranac River and on backcountry trout ponds. It was a natural fit.

"We used to spend weeks at a time, camping out and backpacking to the ponds," Wilcox said. "That was instilled in me from the time I can remember."

Wilcox wound up buying the property on Rainbow Lake Road with his wife, who works at Paul Smith's College. Then in the spring of 2008, he opened up his shop in a building that was once an antique store. His father helped him set up the displays.

Business was slow the first year. Except for a minor announcement in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, the little shop in the middle of the woods didn't get much fanfare. But last year, business tripled, retail sales were up, and Wilcox and his guides did about three dozen trips. He is also still selling his custom flies, both online and in other area stores. He expects to make about 5,000 this year.

He supplements his income by writing for Fly Fisherman, American Angler Magazine and Fly Tyer Magazine.

Overall, things are going well, and this fishing season Wilcox hopes to again make strides with his business.

"I say I'm blessed," Wilcox said. "I'm living in the woods in Rainbow Lake and running a little fly shop. I'm doing what I love."

For more information and to purchase Vince's flies see [www.wileysflies.com](http://www.wileysflies.com)

## FINAL REPORT ON THE 2010 MAYFLY CLUB MEETING

It was a fun filled Mayfly Club tying clinic and get-together with a lot of interest in all the tyer were doing, and a couple of them were actually doing some tying. We had a very nice turnout and some great prizes in our raffle with only one going unclaimed even though we drew all remaining tickets. Sorry Ted, but your donation of an Evening with Sir Theo the Minuscule and his battery operated love toys can be re-donated next year

The March Brown pack rod donated by Cadillac **Bruce Marino** went first, although the winner (who will go unnamed) said, had he known the prints donated by **Shawn 'Jackie Gleason' Britton** were prizes and not just restaurant wall decorations he would have taken one of them rather than the rod. He held up the drawing for about a half hour while he tried to make his mind up as to which of the seven prizes to select, well, actually 5 prizes since he didn't think the two prints were part of the drawing: Tough decision. I think he is a BP exec in real life.

Ralph the Grump questioned the official membership of several of the participating tyers, but withdrew his objections after each of those in question bought a fly from him; and he did comment that he hoped all would return next year even if we had to dig some of them up.

Only one member wore the official black Mayfly Club shirt with insignia, and several guests suggested he should wash it in cold water and let it air dry as it was obvious he hadn't been doing so, and went on to ask if it were made of some type of stretchy material that would fit to any odd shaped body.

Old 'What's his name with the good looking wife' showed up with a box of items that he peddled to members. It reminded me of my younger days when I spent a lot of time in bookie joints and guys with questionable lineage would come in carrying bags of items at greatly reduced prices, always looking over their shoulders, and in a hurry to complete the transactions.

The fine writer and tyer **Bill Logan** tied with us as he needed some flies for the evening fishing. **Catskill John** was wowing everyone with complicated ties, and Senator **Bruce Corwin** was hurt all the way to his soul when an attendee refused to fork over seven bucks for one of his beautiful realistic collector bugs he had been admiring: obviously a newcomer to this game.

Foxy Joe demonstrated his flawless tight loop casting ability out on the grass and caught two of Danny's cats, while Retro assisted a fisherman's attractive wife with, I think, her casting.

Absolutely no one threw up in the parking lot this year and that in itself is a new record.

Four of us tried waiting out a downpour on the East Branch, but quickly agreed we could wait it out more comfortably in the Downsville School House bar.

Many thanks to **Mark 'The Mouth' Romero** for letting me sleep on the floor of his empty, empty of furniture anyway, house, and for spreading flyers throughout the town.

We talked long into the night and I now have a record of all hundred and three establishments and forty-seven internet sites he has been kicked out or off of.

Thanks too to John "The Musician" Hvasta for his effort putting posters and flyers around, and I'm sorry about the arrest, but I did say to place them on windshields during the day. I do understand his reasoning that the fishermen's vehicles would be all herded up at the motels after midnight.

Kudos to Ted and to Judy DVS for their spreading of the word, and to Jim and Mike for tying and joining in the fun.

All members should be forever grateful to **Jim, 'Bag of Donuts' Froio** for producing our new beautiful Ltd Edition Mayfly Club pin and having them available for a ten-spot without any hope of recovering all the design and production cost.

And lastly, thanks to Danny and the Riverside Cafe for providing a place for us and our shenanigans.

I know I've missed harpooning a few of the members and if and when I can remember any other tidbits I will continue this report.

Heartfelt thanks to all who donated their time and prizes. With respect and at least this last line of seriousness,

Thy good self, **Bob Mead**

**Mantis**

## [P-R Outdoors Writer Dennis Aprill dies](#)

By NATHAN OVALLE, and JOSHUA CAMERON Night Editor, Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Longtime Press-Republican Outdoors Writer **Dennis Aprill** died unexpectedly Saturday from an aggressive form of pancreatic cancer.

Aprill's "Outdoor Perspective" column first appeared on the pages of the Press-Republican Sept. 9, 1990, and has been there every Sunday since, more than 1,000 weeks in a row.

"Dennis Aprill did something almost nobody was able to do before him: broaden the appeal of the Outdoors pages to reach every demographic category. Men and women, young and old followed him every week for 19 years," Press-Republican Editor Bob Grady said.

"He was especially proud that in all that time he'd never missed a week, whether to illness, vacation or life's emergencies. For me, he'll be hard to replace as a contributor to the paper, but impossible to replace as a friend."

Aside from anchoring the Press-Republican's Outdoors page, Aprill contributed to Vermont Outdoors magazine, Adirondack Life, Sports Afield, Country Journal and Conservationist; he also authored several books, including "Paths Less Traveled" and "Good Fishing in the Adirondacks," and co-authored the field guide "Mammals of the Adirondacks."

Aprill, a licensed guide for 20-plus years and member of the New York State Outdoorsmen's Hall of Fame, was also involved in many state and national organizations, including Trout Unlimited, which honored him with the State Professional Communicator Award in 2004.

"The North Country has lost a great friend with the passing of Dennis Aprill," said William H. Wellman, Region 5 vice president for the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited.

"Many of us love the outdoors but few of us can express it the way Dennis did."

Aprill, who taught English and journalism courses at Plattsburgh State, is survived by his wife, Kathy; son, Colin; and daughter, Karalyn.

Among his other honors were numerous writing and photography awards from the New York Outdoor Writers Association, including two first places for columns in 2004; in 2000, he was recognized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Earth Day Media Partnership; and in 1999, the Woodmen of the World named him their Conservationist of the Year.

The Press-Republican's Outdoors page received the "Best Outdoor Coverage by a Newspaper" award from by The New England Outdoor Writers Association in 2008.

## **The Passing of Ed Koch**

**Edward A. Koch Jr.**, 78, formerly of York Springs, died Sunday, July 11, 2010, at Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Carlisle.

Born July 5, 1932, in Ashland, he was a son of the late Edward A. Jr. and Ruth A. Oestreich Koch.

He was the original owner and operator of Yellow Breeches Fly Shop in Boiling Springs, who also authored many books on fly fishing as well as guided fisherman along local streams. He was a member of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Association and a member of the United Methodist Church, York Springs. Edward was a U.S. Marine veteran who served during the Korean War.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth B. Koch of Carlisle; five children, Laurie Jo Koch-Sandt of Ridgley, Md., Edward "Kip" A. Koch III (and wife, Cindy) of Ridgley, Md., Cindy Serano of Florida, Julie Koch of California and Nathan Koch (and wife, Sue) of Newville; one brother, Norman Koch (and wife, Noreen) of Chambersburg; a stepdaughter, Sue Ellen Wolfarth (and husband, Donald) of Annandale, Va.; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joanne (Geguzis) Koch.

Memorial services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Hoffman-Roth Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc., 219 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, with the Rev. Timothy Keller officiating. A visitation will be held from 6 p.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Association, P.O. Box 541, Enola, PA 17025.

To sign the guest book, visit [www.hoffmanroth.com](http://www.hoffmanroth.com).

*Editor's Note – This obituary tells only a small story of the life of one of fishing's legends. His books include "Midge Magic", "Terrestrials: A Modern Approach to Fishing and Tying with Synthetic and Natural Materials", and "Fishing the Midge". All are must reads. I met Mr. Koch at a show once and he ranks right up there with nicest people I've ever met. He will be missed.*

## **Clearwater Chapter Member to Fish on the Japanese National Fishing Team at the American Cup Fly Fishing Tournament!**

Originally published by Frank Sousa at [www.masslive.com](http://www.masslive.com) on July 3, 2010.

Fly fishing devotee Jim Slade of Springfield has been selected for a very unusual honor. He has been named as a member of the Japanese National Fishing Team and will represent that country in the upcoming American Cup Fly Fishing Tournament Sept. 17-19 in Frisco, Colo.

He was chosen over countless competitors after participating in fly fishing tournaments around the world and finishing in the top 10 on a regular basis.

The 35-year competitive fly fisherman competed in both salt and fresh water fly fishing competitions around the world and landed many species.

*I am very flattered that they would consider me for this competition. I have fished many times with these guys on my business trips to Japan and I have enjoyed many of the team members at my place on the Miramichi thru the years. I'll keep you posted as to my progress and who the competition ends up, maybe it would make a good article for the Clearwater chapters newsletter, after all my TU membership is in the Clearwater chapter – **Jim Slade.***

**Have an Enjoyable and Safe Rest of Your Summer 2010 – See You in September!!**