

new york city *Trout Unlimited*

Volume 16, Number 5

November\December 2000

SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER

by Fred Thorner

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nyctu.org

Our chapter has come a long way in the past few years. In 1997 we stopped monthly meetings and the newsletter due to a lack of funds and nearly dissolved. But members rallied in response to an emergency appeal and raised \$5,000. With that money and the generosity of Thomas O'Keefe and The General Society Of Mechanics and Tradesmen who offered us a free meeting space, we were able to continue.

When we resumed meetings a fresh burst of enthusiasm resulted in higher meeting attendance. The Alley Creek project was launched. Grants from the Long Island Sound Study and Trout Unlimited's Em-

brace-A-Stream program were awarded for the scientific study and volunteers came out to do field testing. The chapter now seemed to have more direction and an identity of its own.

That was the good news, now for the not-so-good news.

Meeting attendance has dropped to an average of ten or twelve members. It is frustrating to put a large effort into programs that are so poorly attended, and it is embarrassing to invite speakers to address such a small audience. In turn, the programs suf-

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FUTURE MEETINGS: Schedule Revised

NYCTU has decided to revamp our meeting schedule. Instead of 9-10 monthly meetings per year, we will now hold 3-4 meetings each year. We hope this will make each meeting more special and encourage more members to attend--and allow continued effort to be devoted to other Chapter activities such as conservation.

No firm schedule is set, but we expect to hold a March or April Trout Forum and a summer Casting Clinic, along with another event. Aside from the Casting Clinic, meetings will continue to be at the Society of Mechanics on West 44th Street. (The tentative revised schedule is on page 9.)

We'll publish the meeting dates and topics as soon as they are set--please check future newsletters or our web site, www.nyctu.org. You can receive e-mail notice of meetings and events by signing up at the web site or by sending your e-mail address to nyctu@hotmail.com (be sure to type "subscribe" in the subject line).

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The Urban Fisherman,
The Newsletter of NYCTU,
is published six times a year
by
the New York City Chapter of
Trout Unlimited

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TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION

To conserve, protect and restore
North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

For four decades, Trout Unlimited has been America's leading trout and salmon conservation organization. TU's 95,000 members and 455 chapters across the United States and Canada are actively engaged in the fight to preserve our precious trout and salmon resources.

A Note From the Editor

Supporting the Chapter

As Fred Thorner notes on the front page our chapter needs the help of members to reach its full potential. In addition to all the important things Fred says about what the board and the members can do, let me add one more: *write an article for the newsletter.*

We are always in need of good articles on fly tying instruction, fishing technique or local conservation issues. We are open to other suggestions, but we do have limitations on space and a strong preference for certain types of pieces—please contact me so we can discuss subject and length. You can reach me at 212-772-6894 or be e-mail at ehn@bigfoot.com.

Alley Creek

As much as we enjoy touting the chapter's accomplishments, we prefer when someone else does it. So, we are particularly proud that two newspapers have recently written about the Alley Creek project.

In late August the Sunday New York Times Long Island section carried an article on the project entitled "Don't Get the Rod Out Yet, But Trout May Be Returning". And last month Newsday wrote about NYCTU's work at Alley Creek, including a photo of Fred and Eric Thorner. Kudos again to Wayne Tusa and Fred and Eric for making this project a reality.

EHN

Join or Renew through NYCTU

As noted in the cover article, our chapter will receive a \$5 rebate for members who join or renew through us. When your membership is about to expire – or to join for the first time - just fill out the form below and forward with a check to Susanne Weiser as indicated.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
Occupation _____
Chapter New York City #447

- Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form, plus my membership application and payment.
- Please send me information on TU's Grassroots Activists Network.

SEND TO: Susanne Weiser
325 East 41st Street, #707
New York, NY 10025

Please check membership category*:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership (\$30); | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years regular (\$80) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (\$35); | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years family (\$90) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring Contributor (\$75); | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Contributor (\$150) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator Membership (\$300); | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life (\$750)**; | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Life (\$850)** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student Membership (\$15); | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership (\$200) | |

Payment Method

- Check (Make checks payable to TROUT UNLIMITED) Charge

Signature _____

VISA/Mastercard (circle one) # _____ Exp. _____

Membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Life Memberships, any amount over \$100 is tax deductible.

* Canadian memberships - please add \$5 per year, all other countries add \$20 per year

Contact TU National Office for foreign life memberships

** No further dues

Support Your Chapter

(Continued from page 1)

fer. So, it is no longer practical for us to hold monthly meetings

In addition to the small turnout, all the work that goes into running a chapter has now fallen to six or seven members. This includes creating programs, coordinating and funding projects, providing a newsletter and a website, attending board meetings and strategic planning meetings, fund raising and myriad other tasks. We are exhausted!

The chapter needs the participation both of directors and members.

Here's What We Are Doing:

We are focusing our efforts. Last we began a Strategic Planning effort to identify where we should be expending our time and funds. When the strategic plan is complete we will be able to focus our efforts to better serve the needs of the chapter.

We are revamping our meeting schedule. To better devote ourselves to conservation and fundraising, we will hold five events a year. Two of these will be our spring and Fall Connetquot trips. One will be our Central Park Casting Clinic. The other two will be indoor meeting/events, one of which will be a Trout Forum/Fly Tying Event. The other is yet to be designed. Our goal is to create bigger, better events with more notice and promotion and hopefully better attendance.

Here's what you can do:

Come to a Meeting. We know you're a typical busy New Yorker. Between career and family obligations you hardly get a chance to fish as much as you'd like. Well, now meetings/events will only be held two or three times a year. We'll give you plenty of notice so you can mark it on your calendar. There will be plenty to do and see and a chance to win some great stuff in a raffle.

Volunteer. The Alley Creek project now gives us the opportunity to work in the field, hands on, with data collection and soon with restoration work. If you've never gotten out there and done some rock rolling you've missed the essence of what Trout Unlimited is all about. Helping to revitalize a trout habitat is a very fulfilling

experience. It's almost as much fun as catching fish!

Other volunteer opportunities are listed in the Volunteer Options column in each newsletter. (At the moment we are seeking a bit of help from a corporate attorney, see page 8.)

Make a Donation. We need funds in order to publish a newsletter and run a chapter. Grant money is earmarked for specific projects and cannot be used for day-to-day expenses. Although the amount needed to run our chapter is comparatively small, it still takes considerable time and effort, and some expenses, to raise that money.

Fund raising events such as dinners require enormous manpower and advance expenditures. Even mailing appeals are costly. Our last appeal barley brought in enough to cover its cost. Don't make us beg to preserve your chapter - **GIVE!**

Renew through the Chapter. If for some reason you can't or do not wish to make an annual monetary contribution, there is still a way to help the chapter financially without any cost to you-**renew your TU membership through us.** For every member who renews their annual membership through the chapter, **we receive five dollars.** Our chapter has about 1,100 members. If everyone renewed through the chapter we would have at least the minimal annual operating funds covered.

To help your chapter, send your renewal form and check to:

Susanne Weiser
325 East 41st Street #707
New York, New York 10017

Memberships will be renewed exactly as if you'd forwarded the form directly. If you don't have your renewal form handy, you can use the one on page 3.

We urge you to do all you can to help the chapter continue and flourish, but if you can do nothing else, simply sending your renewal to Susanne will make all the difference in the work, perhaps the difference between success and failure.

NYCTU Board of Directors

Our Sincere Thanks

to everyone who generously contributed to
our summer fund drive

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JERRY WOLLAND

Contributions as of November 1, 2000.

We regret any omissions or errors. For corrections or additions, please contact the editor.

Errors will be corrected in a future issue.

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

In each issue Volunteer Options lists opportunities to volunteer your time and talents for conservation and education. NYCTU and other non-profit groups will be featured. For submissions, please contact the editor.

CORPORATE ATTORNEY

The Chapter is looking for a corporate attorney who can give us a bit of help with legal matters. If possible, the volunteer should have some experience working with not-for-profit corporations.

If you are a corporate lawyer and have a bit of time to donate, please contact Eric Newman at 212 772-6894 or ehn@bigfoot.com

NYCTU

Meeting Schedule

As noted on the front page, we have revised our schedule of meetings. We are now planning to hold 2 or 3 meetings each year, plus our spring and fall Connetquot trips.

Final dates and times for all future meetings will be announced in future issues of the newsletter, on the web site WWW.NYCTU.ORG and to our e-mail subscribers.

All meetings (except casting clinic and trips) will continue to be held at the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, 20 West 44th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues).

March or April

Trout Forum

Society of Mechanics, 20 West 44th St.

June

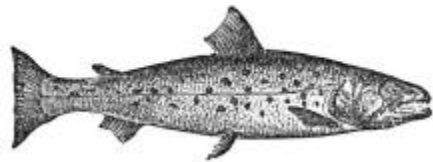
Central Park Casting Clinic

March

Spring Connetquot Trip

October

Fall Connetquot Trip



Fly Tying

Spice up those old recipes

by Eric Newman

Winter is approaching and you know you should be at the vise tying flies for next season. But you just can't bear to create the same old patterns in the same old way. Fear not--just like that holiday turkey, those old standbys can be spiced up with new ingredients and techniques. These changes are not magic--nothing in fly tying is. But they will make familiar patterns more interesting to tie. The trout may like them better too.

Glue Your Parachute Hackle

Parachute flies are effective, low-riding mayfly imitations, but they are a nuisance to tie. Tying off the horizontal hackle is particularly messy. Instead, try finishing off the hackle with a tiny drop of super glue.

The glue should be placed on the hackle stem exactly where it will touch the rear side of the post. Use just a drop of glue or it will get onto the hackle fibers and hinder flotation. With your hackle pliers, hold the feather's stem tight against the post for 20-30 seconds. It should stick when you let go--if not try again, and hold it a bit longer. Snip off the stem as close to the glued point as possible.

When using glue, you change the normal tying order: tie in the hackle stem at the post, then dub the entire fly to the head and whip finish (or half hitch--see below). Then go back and wrap the hackle around the post, finishing off with the glue.

Dub the Thorax on Pheasant Tail Nymphs

The thorax on the pheasant tail nymphs employ wrapped pheasant tail fibers (the original Frank Sawyer version) or peacock herl. The Sawyer version makes a nice, thin profile nymph, but it doesn't have legs (some tiers fold back excess pheasant tail fibers on either side of the head--but these don't look much like real nymph legs). And while the peacock herl's iridescent green

looks a lot like the underside of certain insects, it's an odd choice for mayfly nymphs. With either version, the fish get habituated to the classic recipes.

To give it a new look, take a tip from our former chapter president John Crow and dub the thorax. John uses Partridge's excellent but pricey SLF dubbing; he prefers claret or fiery brown. If you don't want to splurge, just mix some rust colored rabbit fur with similarly colored antron--about a 2:1 ratio should work fine. If your tying the olive dyed pheasant tail that Al Troth recommends, use olive\brown SLF or a mix of olive\brown fur and antron. Whatever the color, be sure to pick out some fibers to imitate the legs.

Half Hitches

This one works for all patterns, not just one. A whip finish makes a strong head on flies, and allows you to show off your hard earned mastery of that Matarelli whip finishing tool. But on small flies, especially dries, you may be better off using a couple of half hitches. Hitches put less thread at the head of the fly and are especially helpful when you've crowded the eye a bit. While half hitches are not quite as sturdy as a whip finish, if done tightly they aren't likely to come loose.

You can half hitch with your bare hands, but it's easier and faster to use one of those half hitch tools--the kind that look like metal versions of double ended pencils (they should have cupped ends to help you get the thread over the hook eye). Half hitches are also useful for keeping materials in place if you need to stop in the midst of tying a fly. This was a standard technique before weighted spools became available.



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NYCTU Web Site

www.nyctu.org

Visit the New York City Trout Unlimited web site !

- check our updated meeting and activity schedule
- send us an e-mail
- download current and past newsletters
- get a TU Membership Application
- sign up for the email service
- leave a comment or suggestion

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