

# TGF Bulletin

The Monthly Voice of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

November 2005

## TGF Luncheon

November 15, 2005

### The Eastern Water Project

**Kirt Mayland**

**12:00**

Union League Club

37<sup>th</sup> and Park Avenue

*Jacket, no tie required for men*

## TGF President's Message

November, 2005



Since this note is being written on Veterans Day, I'd like to salute all those in TGF who are veterans and fly fishers. And since we're getting near the close of the year, I'd also like to take this opportunity to salute all those on the TGF Board of Directors who gave so much to our organization this year. I know if I single out anyone, I'll inevitably get in trouble through the sin of omission. So I won't do that. But if we were handing out commendation medals, I know a squad of people who should get them.

Here are some of the thumbnail citations that should go along with the imaginary medals awarded this year. Unflagging TGF Membership Recruiter (First Class). Meritorious Flyfishing Outings Leadership (several recipients). Unselfish Catskills Conservation & Litigation Monitoring. Outstanding Fly Fishing Show Booth Guard Duty (three campaigns). Highly Commendable Publications Award (two stars). Indefatigable Beaverkill Cleanup Patrol (first campaign). Highly Diligent Finance Corps. Valorous Project Access Counterattack After Two Beamoc Floods. Victorious Fund-raising Dinner Leadership. Indomitable Luncheon Program Organizer. Etc. Etc.

## *Theodore Gordon Flyfishers*

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES SEE OUR WEBSITE,

[www.TGF.ORG](http://www.TGF.ORG)

<b>November</b>	<b>15</b>	TGF Luncheon Kirt Mayland "The Eastern Water Project"
<b>December</b>	<b>5</b>	TGF Luncheon Dirk Gibson, "Middle Fork of the Salmon River"
<b>January</b>		TGF Luncheon Date to be Announced

In thinking of these awards I began to wonder just how much time has been given by the awardees and other unsung heroes for the benefit of TGF and its mission. I wouldn't know how to begin to count them. And therefore I suggest we all take a moment in this month of Thanksgiving to pay a token of appreciation to all those in TGF who have done so much to make this year so successful. Carry on!

Tight Lines,

*Peter F. Smith*

**President, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers**

## **TGF Luncheon November 15**

### **Kirt Mayland, “The Eastern Water Project”**

Kirt Mayland is the Director of the New England Office of the Eastern Water Project for Trout Unlimited. The Eastern Water Project is a new Trout Unlimited program focused on improving water diversion and instream flow policy in the eastern states. The program concentrates on developing and promoting changes to state policy related to instream flow protection, regulation of withdrawals of ground and surface water, and water supply planning. Kirt gave up the blue pinstripe for a blue pickup truck, traversing the state of Connecticut from stream to shining stream. He was instrumental in the DEP action on the Yale Farm Golf Club water diversion permits and continues to monitor conditions across the state.

**Dress code for the club is jacket and shirt with collar, no tie required.**

## **TGF Luncheon December 5**

### **Dirk Gibson, “Floating the Middle Fork of the Salmon River”**

Dirk Gibson of Adventure Guides is flying in from Idaho to give us a presentation on fishing the world famous Middle Fork of the Salmon River at **12:00 Noon on Monday, December 5** at the Union League Club. Several of our members, including the infamous "TGF 8" (Lowenfels, et al.) and our Conservation VP Terry McCartney and his family, have floated the river with Dirk and his expert guides and all agree that the Middle Fork float is the trip of a lifetime.

The Middle Fork is the longest stretch of continuously navigable river in North America with over 100 miles of free-flowing pristine water in the heart of the Frank Church Wilderness Area national park - no cell phones, no roads, no buildings, just beautiful pristine scenery, abundant wildlife and wild trout for 100 miles! Please join us at this luncheon for a unique presentation as Dirk shows us this incredible part of our country.

# Autumn in New York

## The TGF Connetquot Outing

James C. Aker

Saturday morning October 29th proved to be a grey day of overcast skies and slight breezes. The chance of rain or even snow was in attendance and the practiced weather eye of the experienced fly fisher was cast skyward. A wide variety of secret incantations were inaudibly muttered to ward off the threatening precipitation. There was a chill in the air and a crispness that is typical of late October and a harbinger of



A Buck takes a stroll nearby

Photo by: J.C. Aker

the winter to come. The leaves are at the height of their color and there are the rich smells of high autumn in the air. It was on such a day that the quintessential pedagogue, Ichabod Crane, found himself headed towards Van Tassel manor to court his beloved golden Katrina; and of course her father, Heer Van Tassel's, rich estate. This was much to the chagrin of one Master Brom Bones, Ichabod's chief competition for the hand of the fair Katrina. Little did the hapless schoolmaster know that later that cold and dark evening, upon his return trip down that very same Tarrytown road, he would have a most terrifying encounter with the fabled Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow!

Bones frightened off his pedantic rival by dressing in the colorful autumn costume of the Horseman and hurling a flaming Jack-o -Lantern at the terrified schoolmasters head. Bones went on to marry his Dutch darling, however that's another story. But, what of Ichabod? Well, after his encounter with the Horseman, he was neither seen nor heard from again. It was assumed he was spirited away by the spectres and phantoms known to roam the rivers and forests of New York during autumn time; at least according to the country wives who always know best about such things. Luckily for us, we need not worry about meeting such frightening apparitions upon our road, for we are seeking a diverse creature in a different costume; the wily trout in their autumn attire of spawning colors.

Well, we all know and love Washington Irving's wonderful Halloween tale of how a costumed Brom

Here, only slightly removed from Tarrytown, in Connetquot River State Park on Long Island, we found them in great abundance and quite at home in the cold waters of this charming stream. The annual pilgrimage of TGF members to the Connetquot River got underway on Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> and ended today on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was a bit rainy and damp, but the river was productive in the morning hours. Those present caught fish and had a good time. Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> however has been a perfect day for capturing our salmonid quarry. Most of us arrived around the hour of nine AM and suited up for our time on the river. Although wading is not permitted above the hatchery, waders were certainly the uniform of the day to ward off the chill.

The Connetquot River or “Great River”, named so by the indigenous Secatogue people who populated the area before the coming of the Europeans in the 1600’s, is part of Long Island’s major watershed and is treated as an irreplaceable resource by the State and the citizens of Long Island. Would that all rivers were treated so. It is one of those rare and valued coastal watersheds that are nearly unheard



Michael and Matthew Buthe display their catch

Photo by: J.C. Aker

of in the state of New York. It has been designated a wild, scenic, and recreational river under New York’s conservation laws and is properly managed by Mr. Gil Bergen the Park Manager, as a recreational resource meant to be enjoyed within reason by all. Home to a colonial grist mill built by the Nicoll family in 1697 and operated by same for nearly two hundred years and the famous Snedecor’s Tavern, built by Eliphalet (Liff) Snedecor in 1820, the area quickly became a magnet for the financial wizards of Wall Street and business tycoons of the retail and manufacturing world seeking rest and relaxation from the weekly grind of high finance and commerce in old New York. A kind of “Gilded Age Gold Coast” was established around the tavern and on the river. The tavern, park and all, was later purchased by a consortium of wealthy men and used as the headquarters for the exclusive Southside Sportsmen’s Club that was officially established in 1866. Vanderbilt’s made their home upon the Connetquot’s banks and the Southside Sportsman’s Club was frequented by such men as President Ulysses S. Grant, President Theodore Roosevelt, J.P. Morgan, Charles L. Tiffany, General William Tecumseh Sherman, and Daniel Webster. But in time the “Gilded Age” went the way of all things and the area became more populated. The super wealthy moved on to other playgrounds and in 1973 what remained of the club was sold to the State of New York and a State Park was established in the 80’s. Today the old Clubhouse remains and is home to the park’s Museum, Educational Center, Outdoor Learning Lab and BOCES Environmental Education program.



Spawning colors amidst the leaves

Photo by: J.C. Aker

With its headwaters in Lakeland County Park and nestled in a state forest preserve of nearly 4000 acres that carries its name, the Connetquot River meanders back and forth until it reaches the sea eight miles distant at Nicoll Point on the South Shore of Long Island just across the Great South Bay from Fire Island. Its sources are many natural coldwater springs that bubble up from the Pleistocene era Ronkonkoma glacial moraine. Centuries ago, the outflow of the receding glacier established the river basin and one of the finest trout streams on Long Island was born. As a result of the pristine and pollution free waters and an outlet to the sea, a significant sea-run fishery for brown trout was established and the large silver sided fish can be found in the river each spawning season until

spring. The record Sea Run Brown taken on the Connetquot is over sixteen pounds and an eight to ten pounder is not out of the ordinary. Sea Run Rainbows have been caught that approach twenty pounds. The river sustains a large population of Native Brook, German Brown, Tiger Trout and Kamloops Rainbow Trout supported by a fully operational State Park hatchery, using the river and its many tributaries as its water source.



A doe forages 10 feet away

Photo by: J.C. Aker

Connetquot River Park is home to a variety of wildlife including, White Tailed Deer, Red Foxes, Grouse, Pheasant, Woodcock, Turkey, a diversity of waterfowl including Canada Goose, Mallards, Canvas Backs, Mute Swan, Heron, Egret, sea birds of all sorts and raptors including Owls and Osprey amongst other fauna. Just ask Dorothy Halberg who was just thrilled when the Doe pictured at right wandered up to greet her and her father Garth at a distance of 10 feet. The park receives over one hundred thousand visitors each year who pursue a variety of activities on its 17 miles of hiking and nature trails, 25 bridal paths and 33 miles of rivers, ponds, and brooks.

What a grand day it turned out to be for a TGF Outing. John and Gloria Happersett were in attendance and had a marvelous time walking the middle sections of the river. John was in pursuit of equaling the eight pounder he caught here some years back and Gloria, a non-fisher, observing the wildlife and the beauty of the leaves. John came away with other stories of the one that he saved from a marauding sea gull or the one that bent his hook to escape for another days fight. Dr. Marc Fe Borstein was here teaching three neophyte fly fishers the ropes so to speak and three generations of the Buthe family, Henry, Michael, and Matthew, tried their luck to much success up and down this length of bright water. The Tasker brothers, Arthur and John worked the beats like a couple of pros. In truth Arthur Tasker is an experienced hand on the Connetquot and knew many of the best spots and the best flies to use. He did well. We even had a guest from "across the pond"; a resident of the UK by the name of Brian, who had a great time and spoke very well of American waters after his experiences here. Chip Westerman and his friend Lauren Berger, two of our newer members, were very pleased with the experience. Chris Rossow

brought his substitute brother in law to this, his second trip here in two weeks. As I passed them on the river, they seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely.

They say that at the it gets very quiet.” fishing is good, it indeed golden on the caught and released enjoyment of all. I twenty; several of length ; the largest a inches. They took cast in front of them. Rainbow on a used a Mickey Finn twenty years. One fishing for Disney this, the Connetquot Trout fishing. Some believe it or not, little old after a time. variety, that if you can be found around the bend either further up or downstream.



Marc Fe Borstein streamside.

Photo by: J.C. Aker

dinner table; “if the food is good, Well I can tell you that if the gets even quieter. Silence was river this day. Many fish were unharmed to the great personally stopped counting at them approaching 20 inches in fat Rainbow of around 19 practically anything that was I caught the aforementioned Mickey Finn streamer. I haven’t for anything for better than member said “ its kind of like Trout.” In a way, on days like can be like the Disney World of of the pools are so good that, catching trout after trout gets a But, the river offers enough seek something more difficult, it

During the normal season there are morning and afternoon angling sessions and the river has 32 beats that are assigned on a first come first serve basis. Traditionally, TGF takes the entire river and all the beats therein for the day for its outings. As a result our members need not go through the usual beat assignments on TGF Outings that are the rule during the regular season. For most of the season the river is a shallow and slow moving stream and easily accessed for wading although this practice is discouraged and permitted only downstream of the hatchery. Wading above the hatchery as stated before is prohibited but this does not present a problem in that the river is narrow enough to be fished effectively from the bank and the wooden platforms the park maintains. There are sections of the river that provide access to physically challenged and elderly anglers who may otherwise have difficulty getting to and from the river.

The Connetquot at this season is a short rod stream and the experienced angler would find an outfit of no more than 7 foot for 6 weight is perfect for most of the fishable sections although many bring their eight and eight and a half foot rods and do just fine. When selecting a rod and line weight, some consideration needs to be given to an angler’s skill in landing big fish as the Sea Run Browns can grow commonly to ten pounds and be quite a handful on a smaller rod.

The river in the park is strictly catch and release and artificial flies tied on barbless hooks only- No Bait!. This regulation is rigorously enforced and some cheaters have been banned from the water as a result of their unsportsmanlike conduct. Lead weight of any kind is forbidden. Popular flies during autumn include Woolly Buggers, Grey Ghosts and Black Ghosts, Maribou Muddlers, Hare’s Ear and Copper John

nymphs. Usually the larger the fly the better. Glow Bugs and other Egg patterns are known to work, but their use is discouraged by the park.

The area across the park is where the river water begins and Sea there before heading up Since it is a tidal estuary, tidal waters apply.

The day came to an end their gear and in the each other tight lines and separate ways thinking Connetquot is indeed a inhabitants are help thinking that one fishing this stream until and goes The large trout phantoms and sprits in time. Before you know it upon you. You must take Ichabod Crane, neither be seen nor heard from again, and the country wives would have their say about how you met your fate one Halloween eve on the Connetquot river and another legend would be born.



Arthur and John Tasker  
welcoming a streamside  
companion

Sunrise Highway (Rt. 27) outside of the makes its way to the sea and the tidal Run Browns are known to congregate stream into the fresh water to spawn. no license is required and regulations for

and TGF anglers reluctantly packed up gathering twilight and quietly wished placid waters as we each went our on the days triumphs and tragedies. The river to be reckoned with and its trouty formidable autumn creatures. I couldn't could easily spend hour upon hour the day wears thin and twilight comes that you have been pursuing become the gloaming and you lose track of the evening is gone and the darkness is care then friend angler for you may , like

## TGF's Website

[TGF.org](http://www.tgf.org)

We've continued to do a lot of new work on our website in the past two months to make it even more useful to our members and others interested in our organization and conservation. You'll find our Mission Statement there so you can see precisely what we're trying to accomplish, information about our luncheons and our Annual Day Dinner, a calendar of upcoming events through December of 2005 as of this writing, and a nice new feature: copies of the **TGF Bulletin** and **Gordon's Quill**, including not only the current issues, but a few back issues as well (more will be added in the future). Current press releases are also there for members' information, a list of officers and some history of TGF. Our latest addition is information on changes in the **laws on charitable giving** that can be very useful for you and TGF; we've also included this below for your information as time is short until the end of the tax year!

We'll be continuing to refine the site and get current alerts there for your information, so take a look and bookmark it so you can keep up to date with our current activities.

# TGF Dues to Rise in 2006

**A**fter many years of remaining at the same levels, membership dues will be increasing on January 1, 2006. The increased cost of mailings and operations has forced the Board of Directors to carefully scrutinize the current membership levels and the dues for same. It has been resolved and passed that in order to cover the club's costs of printing and mailing of the Gordon's Quill, and Event Notifications plus month to month operation, a modest increase in certain dues levels is necessary.

### Current 2005 Levels

<b>Non-resident</b> (150 miles from NYC)	\$ 25	Standard
<b>Student</b>	\$20	Standard
<b>Individual</b>	\$ 40	Standard
<b>Individual 3 Yr.</b>	\$120	Standard
<b>Family</b>	\$ 50	Standard
<b>Family 3 Yr.</b>	\$150	Standard
<b>Contributing</b>	\$100	Premium
<b>Patron</b>	\$250	Premium
<b>Benefactor</b>	\$500	Premium
<b>Life Member</b> (One time donation)	\$750	Premium

### New 2006 Levels

<b>Non-resident</b> (150 miles from NYC)	\$ 25	Standard
<b>Student</b>	\$20	Standard
<b>Individual</b>	\$ 45	Standard
<b>Individual 3 Yr.</b>	\$120	Standard
<b>Family</b>	\$ 55	Standard
<b>Family 3 Yr.</b>	\$150	Standard
<b>Contributing</b>	\$150	Premium
<b>Patron</b>	\$275	Premium
<b>Benefactor</b>	\$500	Premium
<b>Life Member</b> (One time donation)	\$1000	Premium

In keeping with our end of year Membership Drive, a one time offer is being made to members who may have not yet renewed for 2006. If you renew before the end of 2005, you may renew at current 2005 dues levels and your membership will extend to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006. This is particularly advantageous to those who may be considering Life Membership with TGF. By selecting Life Membership this year, you will save \$250. This offer ends December 31, 2005 and will not be offered again. New renewal premiums (Thank you gifts) are being discussed and will be available after the first of the year.

We hope you will elect to renew with TGF before the close of 2005, particularly if your membership has already expired. For those of you who have not renewed since 2004 or before, this will be the last Bulletin you will receive and you have already received your last Gordon's Quill if you do not renew before December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 and reinstate your "Active Member in Good Standing" status.

Membership forms can be found at the TGF Website under "**Individual Membership.**" [WWW.TGF.ORG](http://WWW.TGF.ORG) or you can send the Membership committee an email requesting a form at [MEMBERSHIP@TGF.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@TGF.ORG).

If you or someone you know would like to become a member, please contact:

**James C. Aker, Jr.**, TGF Membership Chair  
499 Lyndale Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 8065-3943

## **Tax Relief for Charitable Contributions through December 31, 2005**

### *A Unique Opportunity for You and TGF*

In the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, Congress has passed a temporary suspension of tax limitations on charitable contributions to all non-profit organizations. The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA) allows cash contributions, including gifts to qualified groups, such as **Theodore Gordon Flyfishers**, made through December 31, 2005 that are "qualified gifts," to be deductible in amounts up to 100% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). This is a significant increase in your ability to make a significant gift without incurring any adverse tax effects.

Congress has defined "qualified gifts" as gifts of cash that are completed before the year ending December 31, 2005. KETRA does not stipulate that the gift must go to charities that are involved with providing relief to the victims of Katrina, so other groups are equally qualified to share in this benefit. In fact, the push from Congress was intended not only to provide relief to the Katrina victims, but to also eliminate a possible downturn in charitable giving that many other non-profits saw post 9/11. While all cash gifts qualify under KETRA, note that gifts to donor advised funds, most private foundations, most charitable remainder trusts (CRT), and certain other life income gift plans do not qualify for this tax relief.

Another benefit to KETRA is that it gives donors the ability to make a cash gift from any number of sources. A prime example of this would be a gift from an individual retirement account like an **IRA, 401(k), or 403(b)**. Under this legislation, gifts from these accounts before the end of the year may present a unique opportunity for you and your estate planning, making it possible for you to use resources normally blocked from being used for charitable purposes.

This presents a unique opportunity for discussion with your financial and tax advisors to explore how you might be able to take advantage of this tax relief before the end of the year. And it provides a unique opportunity for you to make a significant contribution to the conservation and education programs of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers at a level that will make a real difference, and which will offer a classic "win-win" for you and Theodore Gordon Flyfishers. We hope you will be able to take advantage of this short term but important opportunity to help us continue Theodore Gordon's conservation and education activities.