

TGF Bulletin

The Monthly Voice of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

October 2005

TGF Luncheon

October 25, 2005

Fly Fishing Alaska's Tikchik Wilderness

Fred Lowenfels and Charlie Thatcher

12:00

Union League Club

37th and Park Avenue

Jacket, no tie required for men

TGF President's Message

September-October, 2005



To steal and mangle a line from a '60s folk song: Where have all the anglers gone – short time ago? TGF has expanded its outing programs over the last couple of years. Last year we sponsored outings on the Farmington River, Shinnecock Park, Housatonic River and, of course, the Connetquot. We also did some fishing in the Catskills in conjunction with Project Access and with the Conservation Fund Dinner. So far this year we've had both Catskills events again, a new outing on the Musconetcong and Pequest Rivers in New Jersey in June, and our third annual trip to the Farmington in late July. But where is everybody?

Last year we booked two successive October Saturdays on the Connetquot but, for the first time in memory, we failed to sell out these events. This year, only a corporal's guard turned out in New Jersey and, although there were a couple of new faces, we didn't break ten anglers on the Farmington on a really fine day. We have ready had two outings this fall: Shinnecock on September 17, Housatonic on October 2 and had a reasonable but still small turnout for these. And we have the Connetquot coming up on October 22 and 29. We'd like to see some more TGF members at these events.

So what's happening? Or rather, what's not happening? If anyone has a clue or suggestion, please drop me a line or send me an e-mail at :

President@TGF.ORG.

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES SEE OUR WEBSITE,

WWW.TGF.ORG

October	15	Rock Rolling and Beaverkill Clean Up Day
	22	Connetquot River Outing
	25	TGF Luncheon Tikchik Wilderness Flyfishing, Fred Lowenfels & Charlie Thatcher
	29	Connetquot River Outing
November	5	TGF Luncheon
	15	TGF Luncheon Kirt Mayland
December		TGF Luncheon Date to be Announced

Due to travel commitments and vacations, the TGF Board of Directors was unable to meet in July. When we convened in early August, our meeting came to order only after a flurry of reports on individual fishing trips to Lands Within The Mountains – Colorado, Idaho and other places. We are sure that many other TGF members had fishing trips worth boasting about. For those of you who like to write, now is the time to put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and contribute an article on a good fishing trip to Gordon's Quill. Keep it interesting, informative and add some local color. Photographs are always in order. Send it to: Editor@TGF.ORG

* * *

Don't fish! That seems like a very strange message to give an angling and conservation group such as Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, but that is exactly the message we sent out this summer. Don't fish for trout in the Beaverkill or the Willowemoc or even the main stem of the Delaware! What is nature doing to us? Almost perfect storms twice ravaged the Catskills watershed during one half of the year and then drought and high temperatures imperiled the rivers in the summer. We humans may be inventive in introducing non-native species such as the brown and rainbow trout to our rivers, but in crunch time – when climate conditions turn hot, nasty and unforgiving – it's time to be sporting and put away our rods and pray that these fish find some refuge from thermal stress so that they can survive until cooler weather and more rain arrives. It's also time to give respect to our native brook trout, a creature that will survive these harsh conditions as it had done for thousands of years in the northeast and elsewhere.

Tight Lines and colder water,

Peter F. Smith

President, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

TGF Luncheon: Flyfishing in Alaska's Tikchik Wilderness

This past August 2005, TGF members Fred Lowenfels and Charlie Thacher journeyed to the Tikchik Narrows Lodge in the 1.5 million acre Wood-Tikchik State Park in Southwest Alaska. They were in search of giant rainbows, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and silver and sockeye salmon. Much of the fishing was in the enormous Nushagak River and its tribs, which flow ultimately into Bristol Bay. Each day, they boarded the float planes to a different destination, from small wadeable streams to big, open salmon water.

Come to enjoy the spectacular scenery of this region and the gorgeous fish that will impress even the most traveled angler.

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

“A Summer Evening”

David Kramer

Had been a good day of fishing. The weather remained warm, but not humid. NOAA predicted hot and humid weather for the next few days. The water was very low, clear enough to see most of the rocks on the bottom, and about 63 degrees, normal for mid-august on this medium size New England river. Fishing pressure had made the trout extremely wary.

The morning started slowly with no sign of tricos and no fish rising more than once. After taking the water temperature and checking the surface for signs of live insects or spinners, the angler changed to a dead drift leader and began to nymph. Using a double rig with an #18 pheasant tail below a pink scud, it was over half an hour before he had a strike. But it was an unusual strike. First, a fast charge of twenty feet toward the shore. Then, a leap in the air. Not a big fish, but a determined one, especially on a 3-weight rod. Healthy, energetic and well fed, the 15 inch rainbow took a little time to net. Relieved of the pink scud in its mouth, the rainbow dashed back to its holding place in the river without any need to revive it.

The afternoon was a bit slow by any standard on this pleasant tailwater. Moving downstream, he noticed two and then a third trout rising. Too bright for Olives. Small stuff, perhaps ants. Trying a #16 black ant, he covered the nearest fish, then the one below it without success. Slowly and carefully wading into the middle of the river, he scanned the surface and used his aquarium dip net. Little dark brown flies, about size 26 or 28, called Needhamis after biologist Paul Needham. Possibly unique to this river.

It took at least six casts to the nearest fish before he could adjust the fly so that it floated downstream over the trout ahead of the 7x leader. A head rose and took the tiny brown fly. That was a lot of time and trouble for one 12 inch Brown trout. And a lot of fun. Waiting a while, he moved on when the other two fish did not resume feeding.

The sun headed west, the air cooled, the shadows extended over more than half the river. Time to check out a good spot near the village. There was no one there when he arrived, an unusual event on a river crowded with anglers. It was after 6 and there were only two fish rising occasionally. Half a dozen different patterns had no effect on either trout but indifference. Time went slowly and cheerfully for over an hour. The birds were company, while the street sounds reminded him that the village was a quarter mile away. Another angler joined him a hundred feet upstream and waved a greeting.

At 7:45 trout started to rise, one after another. Why? There were on Isonychia on the water or in the air. The sulphurs had ended a month ago. There were no creamy white flies, no visible hatch. As it grew dark, he put on a parachute sulphur, simply because he could see it. Meanwhile, there were fish rising

everywhere. Seventy-five to a hundred trout were rising within fifty feet of him, several within 5 feet of where he stood waist deep.

He called to the other angler, They are going crazy here,” The man answered, “They are rising all around me, but it’s too dark to change flies’.” There was a dense cloud of tiny spinners from the water to shoulder high, all over the river.

It grew darker. A fish took the sulphur and ran. With half his line out he realized it was foul hooked. When the trout got off, he reeled in the line and took a look at the fly. The sulphur had a fish scale on the hook and a small, dark bodied spinner stuck to the parachute post. Not a rusty spinner, but a size 26 trico or needhami spinner. It was too dark to see the eye of a small spinner, let alone tie one on the 7x tippet. So, he cleaned off the sulphur, dried it off on his shirtsleeve, and cast it out into the constantly rising trout. One grabbed it and tore off downstream, breaking the knot where the 6x and 7x joined, and taking the fly as well. Looking at the end of the leader without anything on it, he started laughing.

Meanwhile the trout were attacking the spinners like the striped bass blitz he had heard of off Long Island. Turning toward the bank, he laughed some more as he waded toward the shore, stopping to listen to the sound of fish in the dark. Then, at the car as he sat removing his boots and waders, the other angler, walking by, saw him sitting there and said simply, “I quit.”

About the Author: *David Kramer is well known to members of TGF. He is a founding member of the organization and a long time supporter of its programs and causes. David is also a long time devotee of the Housatonic River and leads our annual trips to the river. For more of his handiwork, see the photos on the next pages as well.*

Member Notes

Dr Rube Schwager, long time member of TGF is celebrating his 90th Birthday on October 29th. Rube has attended many and maybe all of the TGF luncheons over the last few years. Of late Rube has been having medical problems that have prevented him from participating as often as he would like. I am sure he would appreciate a note or card from the membership.

TGF has been a long time source of camaraderie and pleasure for Rube.

Thank you for your consideration. You can contact him at:

Dr. Rube Schwager
430 West 24th Street
Apt. 4E
New York, N.Y.10011-1336

Regards,

Sy Albus

TGF Annual Day Prize Winner Reports

“A Trip to Saltery Lake Lodge”

by Jack Burger

The good luck began with winning the trip to Saltery Lake Lodge on Alaska's Kodiak Island and continued right on through the trip. It was a tremendous return on a \$5 investment in a raffle

ticket at this year's Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Annual Dinner. Winning the half-price trip for two for a guided week of salmon fishing brought a lot of other good things with it.

Joel Filner helped out with the loan of two eight-weight fly rods and associated accoutrements such that when my fiancée Paula and I showed the tackle to our guide he said, “Wow, this is really great equipment and the guy takes good care of it.” The guide, Joe Solakian, started us on Rough Creek, which drains Kodiak Island's Saltery Lake and Paula caught her first ever fish on a fly, a 10 pound silver salmon on a large barbless egg-sucking wooly bugger. Pretty exciting for someone whose last fishing experience was with her Grandmother as a little girl catching catfish in the Hudson River. I was catching fish too, I might add, which brought out Paula's competitive streak.

We could probably have caught and kept our two fish limit every day but we became selective and kept mostly mid-sized males until we had 20 lbs of frozen filets to take home and the rest of the time fished catch and release.

Mid-week we fished Saltery Creek, which drains into Saltery Lake, for Dolly Vardens (which Paula persisted in calling Dolly Partons) using a six-weight fly rod and a single artificial salmon egg rigged about two inches above a small bare, barbless hook. This requires a quick set when the fish takes the egg but hooks cleanly or not at all. All the Dolly Varden fishing was catch and release, as they don't taste good in late September.

We shared all of the fishing areas with Kodiak bears. They are commonly 10 feet tall and weigh 800 pounds. The bears left partly eaten fish all over the place so the stream banks looked like there had been a food fight at Citarella's fish counter. We saw only three of them but their paths were along all the stream banks and their tracks were everywhere on the sand bars. When I stepped in one of the tracks it was bigger than my size 11 wader boot and Joe commented, “That isn't even a very big one.”

We only carried a gun on one stream where close-in brush made inter-species surprise more likely. Paula looked *tres chic* accessorized with a 12-gauge-pump gun loaded with rifle slugs slung over her shoulder.

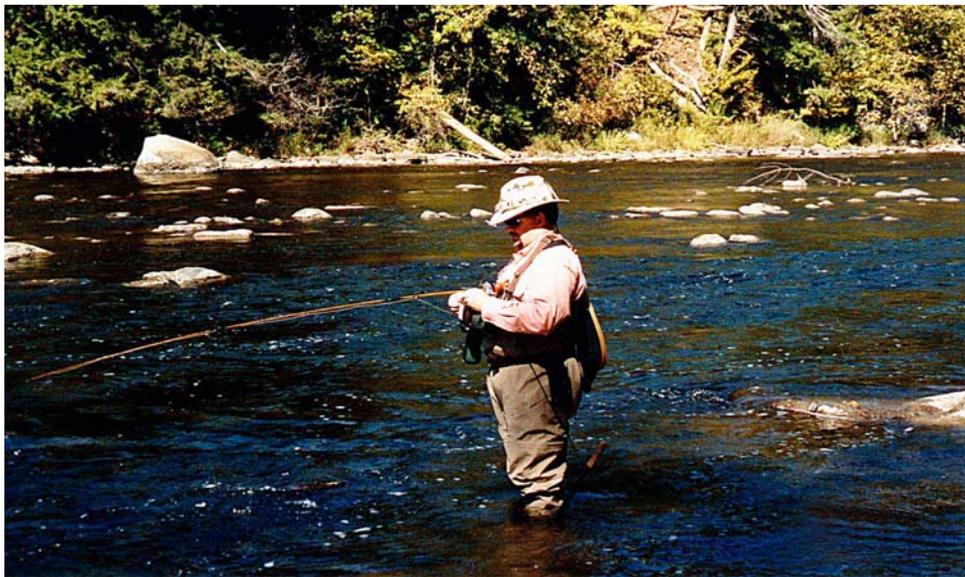
Good fishing, good people, good food, even good weather. We had a wonderful time.

Housatonic River Outing

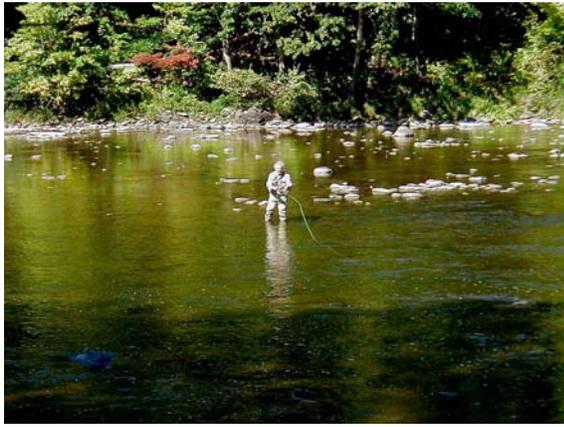
In case you missed that fine day on the Housatonic, we're including some photos here to whet your appetite for the Connetquot River outings coming up. Thanks to Peter Smith and Jim Aker for their photos, which you can see below.



Taking a break on the Housatonic: L-R Jacqueline Rossow, Chris Rossow, Barry Scheer, David Kramer (kneeling) Fred Schulman, John Happersett, Jim Aker (kneeling), Rich Machin.



Jim Aker ties one on in midstream, Housatonic River



Rich Machin at play -- or is it work?



Consultation with the expert

Unfortunately the word is that trout were pretty scarce on the Housatonic that day, and allegedly the fish Rich is chasing above is the noble chub? We need some confirmation of this from an objective source! Peter Smith reports catching two smallmouths that day, perhaps a sign that it was still summer on the Housatonic when TGF was there.

Farmington River Outing

This was an earlier outing, this past July, where the intrepid fishermen and women pictured below weathered a hot but fun day with the trout. On the Farmington at least the water is always cool!



Second TGF Beaverkill Clean-Up Day

Please join your fellow TGF members on Saturday, October 15, for our second Beaverkill clean-up day of the year. One of our responsibilities as a member of the FFF Adopt-a-Stream program is to conduct periodic stream bank clean-ups on our adopted river, The Beaverkill. Our first clean-up effort was back in April and it's now time to return to the river and continue our work. All you need is a willing spirit and a pair of work gloves - we supply the trash bags. Come enjoy the early fall foliage and the fresh Catskills air! The CFFCM Hall of Fame festivities are that evening so come out a few hours earlier and do something meaningful for the health of the river you love so much. We will meet at Cairns Pool at 11:00 a.m. sharp and work until about 3:00 p.m. Please join us! For more information, please call Terry McCartney at 914-835-1961 or send an e-mail to mccartneyt@aol.com. This is as simple as conservation work gets - don't you have 4 hours to spare to make a difference?

THE CFFCM HALL OF FAME PROGRAM ON THE SAME DAY IS NOTED BELOW

2005 Hall of Fame Inductees to be honored October 15

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum will induct:

Hoagy Carmichael, Jr.
Mary Dette
Everett Garrsion
Hiram Leonard
Jim Payne
Carrie Stevens

into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 15, at 4:00 PM in the Museum. This induction ceremony and reception is open to everyone.

Following the ceremony, a dinner will be held at the Rockland House in Roscoe NY at 6 PM. You can make reservations by calling The CFFCM office at 1-845-439-4810. Cost is \$50 and all proceeds will benefit the Museum. Special Guest and Hall of Fame member, Ernest Schwiebert, will entertain all with a slide show presentation on *"Atlantic Salmon of Norway, a journey captured through the lodges and anglers fishing these waters."*

Previous inductees include: Ray Bergman, Stanley Bogdan, Leon Chandler, William A. Chandler, Herman Christian, Reuben Cross, Elsie Darbee, Harry Darbee, Walt Dette, Winnie Dette, Art Flick, Charles Fox, Theodore Gordon, George W. Harvey, Edward R. Hewitt, Bob Jacklin, Poul Jorgensen, William H. "Catskill Bill" Kelly, Bernard "Lefty" Kreh, George M.L. LaBranche, Gary LaFontaine, James Leisenring, Eric Leiser, Nick Lyons, Vincent Marinaro, Albert J. McClane, John McDonald, Alfred W. "Sparse Grey Hackle" Miller, Thaddeus Norris, Ernest G. Schwiebert, Helen Shaw, Frank B. Smoot, Roy Steenrod, Joan Stoliar, Lee Wulff, Joan Salvato Wulff, and Don Zahner.

The Fly Fishing Hall of Fame recognizes men and women who have contributed significantly to the sport. The criteria used by the Nominating Committee in selecting Inductees to the Hall of Fame are as follows:

Inductees must have made substantial contributions to the sport of fly fishing on a regional, national or international basis in one of more of the following areas:

1. Furthering the understanding or care of the aquatic habitat;
2. Innovations of fly fishing techniques, tackle, flies, or other elements of the sport;
3. Furthering appreciation for or knowledge of the practice of the sport.

Inductees may be anglers, guides, scientists, conservationists, fishing industry leaders or in other appropriate roles.

Inductees are not restricted in any way as to country of origin, race, creed, or gender. Inductees may be living or dead.

TGF's Website

TGF.org

We've continued the work on our website already this Fall 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 October 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.

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 Membership

Our membership roster has recently gone over 300, a nice benchmark that we want to build upon. Of course, TGF is always pleased and even anxious to find new members to help us with our conservation and education programs.

Joining is not expensive as a typical membership costs \$40 per year, or about \$3.25 per month. Members receive the newsletter and other information to keep them informed about upcoming TGF events such as luncheon speakers, evening presentation, group outings such as the Shinnecock saltwater flyfishing outing or those on the Housatonic and Connetquot rivers, and critical information about conservation issues in the area. Member dues help support TGF's conservation activity aimed at ensuring that everyone will be able to enjoy our favorite sport in the years to come.

To learn more about the benefits of membership see also the article in the October, 2004 issue of *Gordon's Quill*, and the recently published Fall, 2005 edition of *Gordon's Quill* as well. You can see these on our website.

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
On-line you can send your request by e-mail to
membership@tgf.org
or download a membership form at
<http://www.tgf.org/membershipform.html>