



Gordon's Quill

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Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Policy on Hydrofracking

TGF's policy on hydrofracking calls for a ban on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus Shale in the Greater Catskill Region. This ban would include in the counties of Sullivan, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Albany, Greene and Ulster.

TGF also opposes all drilling throughout New York State on or near State Forest lands, State Park lands, wildlife refuges and all other areas having particular ecological importance, such as wetlands and floodplains, as well as habitats that house threatened species of wildlife or plant life.

TGF opposes drilling in the Delaware River watershed and near streams classified as trout waters level C and above, and those classified as Trout Spawning waters. 

Covering the Angles: TGF's Unique Approach to Fracking

John L. Barone

Over the course of the last year TGF has continued to play an active role with others in the environmental conservation community regarding the debate over fracking in New York. For TGFers, land lying among the steep slopes and floodplains of the Catskills or alongside the watercourses of the Delaware River Basin, are unequivocally located in areas which cannot be exploited by the gas industry in an environmentally sound manner.

Since 2008, TGF's approach to keep the pressure on the gas drilling industry as well as federal and New York State lawmakers has evolved into a complex effort advocating a variety of angler and environmental interests locally, regionally and across state lines.

In an effort to protect the Delaware River Basin, TGF has worked closely with the Delaware Riverkeeper in applying pressure on the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to hold off authorization of gas drilling in the Basin.

Furthermore, this past June, TGF signed onto a coalition letter with the Delaware Riverkeeper (among other organizations) requesting that the DRBC reject water withdrawal applications in the Basin as well as urging the DRBC to use its full review authority to address pipeline proposals throughout its jurisdiction.

Staying within the Catskills, this year TGF joined a coalition of national not-for-profit organizations in an effort to protect New York's Catskill Park from natural gas development. As the birthplace of American flyfishing and the home of our namesake, Theodore Gordon, the trout streams of the Catskills deserve the utmost protection possible, and TGF continues to advocate for the banning of gas drilling not only within the Park, but over the entire Catskill region.

From our home waters to the entire Marcellus region, TGF's participation in the Sportsmens' Alliance for Marcellus Conservation (SA) has caught the attention of sportsmen and women across the northeast. As a reaction to rod and gun clubs of the Catskills executing leases for gas drilling on their land parcels, TGF began an outreach campaign to educate, but also to create a coalition of organizations that could influence the issue of gas drilling in New York and beyond.

In 2011, TGF was one of two groups of the SA which met with Eugene Leff and Bradley Field of the NYSDEC, to discuss environmental solutions for preservation of sportsmens' recreational opportunities in NY State, including special protection for the Catskills. Most recently, TGF participated at the SA Summit in the Poconos where concerns were voiced by attendees from NY, PA, NJ and even Maryland, who sought answers on how to advocate for environmental mitigation and/or bans on gas drilling in their respective states or localities. Finally, TGF is working with the NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) to preserve home rule for local municipalities. Court rulings were issued in February by two different New York State Supreme Court Judges upholding municipalities' right of home rule and allowing local governments to pass laws prohibiting heavy industry such as gas drilling within their borders. TGF, along with several other non-profits and businesses, will be filing amicus briefs to the Appellate Division in support of those who believe that a community's right to home rule in New York State is critical to preserving community character and local economy.

TGF will continue to cover the angles in its advocacy campaign related to gas drilling and protection of the waters we fish.



TGF Outings 2012

Sara Low, Outings Chair

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers is offering a varied selection of fishing trips for the 2012 season. In addition to the popular favorites, we are delighted to see the return of a TGF tradition: a day at the Connetquot River on Long Island.

Some of the rivers we visit are rich in history and tradition, their waters cast into by legendary anglers or titans of industry: The Beaverkill and the Raritan are rivers that are steeped in fly fishing lore. Other waters were chosen for their beauty and bounty: Shinnecock Inlet on Long Island and Connecticut's Farmington River present magnificent vistas with currents teeming with fish.

We hope you will join us on at least one of the TGF outings this season. The days are always a perfect mix of fishing, camaraderie, and amusement.

We will send out notices about the individual outings throughout the season. For more information on this year's trips, contact Sara Low at secretary@tgf.org.

Shinnecock Inlet, Southampton, Long Island

S e p t e m b e r T B D

A day on the beach with the Salty Fly Rodders is always an enjoyable fishing event. Plans are in the making for this great opportunity for TGF to fish salt water with members of the Long Island club. The outing date is dependent on the tide and the Salties.

TGF Director and member of the Salty Fly Rodders, Joel Filner, who knows every wave and tidal pool of the inlet, will be our leader for the day.



Beaverkill River, Roscoe, New York

S u n d a y , S e p t e m b e r 3 0

TGF's outing to the Catskills will be to the famed Beaverkill River the day after the TGF Conservation Dinner. We anticipate feisty trout, cool water temperatures and perhaps a colorful display of autumn foliage. The Beaver kill outing makes it possible you to fish with fellow TGF members and gather for an early dinner on Sunday evening before heading home. It makes a fine combination when you attend the Conservation Dinner on Saturday night and then stay over to fish a bit on Sunday.



Connetquot River State Park, Oakdale, Long Island

S a t u r d a y , O c t o b e r 1 3

Join us for a Theodore Gordon Flyfishers' tradition – autumn fishing on the Connetquot. After a three-year hiatus from this Long Island fishery, TGF is pleased to offer this experience again. At one time our most beloved outing, a Connetquot River daytrip has been enjoyed by TGF members throughout the history of the organization.

Steeped in tradition, the Connetquot River State Park is a 3,000-acre woodlands with its own trout stream in the heart of Long Island. TGF rents the entire river for a full day of fishing.

No longer the fish tank it once was, the Connetquot is still a jewel of a stream. There are fish in the water, but the river is not teeming with trout raised in the old hatchery. We are encouraged by this year's reports from anglers who have ventured back to the park since the hatchery fish had been attacked by a virus several years ago. Fishing at the Connetquot River now requires patience and skill of its anglers. Chances are you won't net a fish without hooking it on your line first, but you will enjoy the serenity of the park's surroundings and the challenge of its fishing.

A limited number of anglers may participate, so advanced registration is required. We will send out reservation forms later this summer.

Fish in the morning, gather for a picnic lunch (bring your own), fish again in the afternoon and be home in time for dinner or the theater. A very civilized day of fishing!





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INC.

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President's Message September 2012



Summer is still here according to the calendar, but it feels like the season started in March when temperatures soared into the upper eighties. The rivers warmed up and insects started emerging in some places at least six weeks earlier than what we consider "normal". As fly anglers, we count on those regular hatches starting and ending about the same time every year as Art Flick wrote about in his *New Streamside Guide to Naturals and Their Imitations*.

The word "normal" also seems to have taken on another meaning or even changed its

meaning when it comes to protecting our natural resources and water systems from the natural gas development and extraction technique known as "fracking". We count on governments, both federal and state along with their respective agencies to protect us and our natural resources from harm. I would like to thank all of our members that have taken the time to send emails and letters to the Governor requesting more studies to be done and also for asking that "fracking" be banned in New York State. This year, TGF joined a number of coalitions and one of these coalitions asked specifically to have gas drilling be banned in the Catskill Park. I personally could never have envisioned that this would be something ever considered but norms have changed. I also want to thank John Barone for the tremendous amount of time and effort that he has invested on the "fracking" threat to the Catskill Region.

In preparation for TGF's 50th Anniversary next year I have appointed a committee, a terrific group comprised of TGF Founders, present Board Directors and TGF members, and Steve Lieb, one of our Conservation Committee Vice Presidents, as chairman. I look forward to a wonderful event to celebrate the fifty years of conservation work that has taken place. You will be hearing more about this in the future.

I look forward to seeing you at the TGF Conservation Fund Dinner on Saturday, September 29 at the Rockland House in Roscoe. It is the major fund raiser for our conservation activities and this year we will be honoring Dan Plummer for his work to help increase the flows in the Delaware System.

Finally, I would like to thank Shannon Brightman for getting our monthly luncheons back on track. She developed a specific theme for the lunches that everyone found both informative and enjoyable. The restaurant, City Crab, has served us well, with very good lunches and a comfortable luncheon arrangement. The number of attendees is very good and continues to grow, so we hope you'll join us for lunch this Fall when the series resumes.

Respectfully,

Bert Darrow, President

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

Want to know More about Fracking?

Here are some resources for information about the fracking issues. Editor

Natural Resources Defense Council Position

http://www.nrdc.org/energy/gasdrilling/?gclid=CLrukPCQvLACFYeo4Aod_A-1ow

Sportsmen's Alliance Information

http://sportsmenalliance.org/PDFs/Sportsmen_Alliance_Position_Policy_Recommendations.pdf

http://sportsmenalliance.org/PDFs/Sportsmen_Alliance_Marcellus_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Local Choice for Communities

<http://sustainableotsego.org/>

Note that TGF filed an amicus curiae in the Town of Middlefield case which led to a decision to permit local communities to make their own zoning laws regarding fracking which you can find here:

<http://sustainableotsego.org/the-middlefield-papers/474-middlefield-appeal>

The Earth Justice Position

http://earthjustice.org/our_work/campaigns/fracking-gone-wrong-finding-a-better-way/fracking-debate

Riverkeeper NY

Home site

<http://www.riverkeeper.org/>

Map of the Catskill Delaware Watershed Area

http://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/watershed_nyc_drinkingwater_dep_lowres_2009.jpg

Dimock Pa. Water Controversy

<http://dontfrackwithny.com/>

Read about other fracking issues from Riverkeeper

<http://www.riverkeeper.org/?s=fracking&area=>

For those who happen to get Columbia magazine (Columbia U. alums), there is a long feature article about Josh Fox and Gasland, Gasland 2 in the current issue.

You can find it on line here:

<http://magazine.columbia.edu/features/summer-2012/gas-menagerie>

Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum

2012 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Inductees

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum's Hall of Fame Committee has announced its 2012 Fly Fishing Hall of Fame Inductees including TGF's own **Larry Solomon**.

Larry studied the aquatic life of caddis flies from an aquarium in his apartment. With this first-hand knowledge, he joined Eric Leiser and co authored *The Caddis and the Angler* in 1977. This book was the frontrunner to many of the books on Caddis flies that followed and a reference to this day. Eric and Larry brought more than caddis flies to the surface as they developed new patterns and fishing techniques.

Following this highly successful book, Larry published *The Complete Book of Modern Fly Fishing* in 1979. It provided anglers with the latest information on tackle, fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing for both fresh and saltwater. It was also in this book that he brought an awareness of the importance of the well-being of our rivers and streams. He encouraged fly fishermen to help by joining conservation minded groups such as Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Other inductees include:

Dr. George Parker Holden

Carrie Frost

Paul Young

Ed Shenk

Joe Brooks

Thomas McGuan

Stu Apte

A ceremony and reception will be held in the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum at 3 PM on Saturday, October 6, 2012. Later that evening a dinner will be held at Wolf Catering at Tennenah Lake, Roscoe, NY. For more details contact the CFFCM at 845-439-4810

Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers' 10th Annual Conservation Fund Dinner

Dan Plummer, Honoree

Roscoe House, Roscoe, NY
September 29

TGF is honored to announce this year's recipient of the "2012 Conservation Award", Dan Plummer, Chairman of Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR). We will honor Dan for his committed and tireless work on behalf of the Upper Delaware. Dan, an avid naturalist, conservationist, and fisherman, will speak about work being done around the watershed and current conservation issues that concern us all.

We suggest you come up early, spend the day on the river and enjoy the Autumn run of browns trout, then sit down to dinner with your friends and fellow conservationists.

The following day if the TGF Beaverkill outing, so you can plan to stay overnight and join us on the river again on Sunday for another memorable day flyfishing the Beaverkill or Willowemoc rivers with TGF friends.

The Conservation Dinner is Saturday, September 29, 2012, at the Rockland House in Roscoe, NY. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 followed by dinner, live and silent auctions, and the traditional raffle. The proceeds from the dinner will help support TGF's ongoing efforts to protect and improve our home waters.

TGF Farmington River Trip

Lauren Suter

My wife, Pat Key, and I (Lauren Suter) went on the TGF trip to the Farmington River in Connecticut on Saturday, July 7th. We have fished the Farmington a number of times, particularly on TGF outings, and find it one of the most charming and productive trout streams in the East. And after the sweltering 90s in Princeton, it was wonderfully cool.

We arrived late afternoon Friday. It was overcast and we could see fish rising sparsely all over the river. We understand that at about 8:00 that evening they really started feeding, though we had succumbed to fatigue and several dry martinis by then.

Saturday some people started fishing early and we all got together at 9:00 am for a briefing on the river by Bert Darrow. The day was bright sun: nice for us but not so good for the fish. They tended to get off the flats and into troughs or pools. The water depth was good and the wading was fine.



Unlike most of the other fishermen, Pat and I wet-waded. Since the Farmington is tail-water it is good and cold, even on hot days. I was fine but Pat got rather cold. To give you an example of what the fishing was like, when Bert Darrow stopped by where we were fishing Saturday afternoon, just before we all started home, and spent a half hour fishing (well, a bit more), he hooked 4 fish and landed 3, all decent-sized browns.

As no one else had reserved it for Saturday, TGF was offered the pavilion for our lunch. It worked very well and lunch was excellent, good sandwiches and wraps. The people on the outing seemed to get along particularly well this trip and we all sat around for almost two hours talking. As was the case last year it was David Kramer's birthday and we had a large chocolate cake in his honor (and as a lifetime connoisseur of cakes, I can assure you it was really good).

For the record we can recommend the place we have stayed on these outings for the last several years, the Hillside Motel. It is in the "plain pipe racks" category, but very well-maintained and clean, and very inexpensive. (860) 693-4951. The owner/manager is Edison Gilyanna, a charming Assyrian who emigrated from Iran some years ago.

Also for the record, those on the outing this year were: John and Gloria Happersett, Shannon Brightman, Doug Barone, Rod Futerfas, Len Pickard, Fred Shulman, David Kramer, Dean Godown, Jack Selig, David Scibek, Betty Brosius, Rich (don't know last name), Joe Ceballos, Ceballos' guest Emily, Pat Key, Lauren Suter, Karen Kaplan, Bert Darrow, and Sara Low. 🦋

TGF Education Committee's New Scholars for 2012

Karen Kaplan

This year's new cohort of TGF scholars is highly motivated and passionate about preserving and defending the environment within the communities in which they live.

The 2012 Founders Fund Scholar

Elizabeth Murphy is the 2012 recipient of the \$3,500 Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Founders Fund Scholarship. She is currently working toward earning her Masters of Science degree in Climate Science and Policy at Bard College Center for Environmental Policy and intends to apply to Bard's new M.B.A. program in Sustainability.

After graduating from Vassar College where she studied geology and wrote her senior thesis on the resource and policy aspects of potential tidal power sites, Elizabeth was awarded the highly prestige's Compton Mentor Fellowship, one of only 10 awarded nationally, to continue her study of tidal power. After her Compton year she became project manager of Hudson Valley Grass Energy, a non-profit renewable energy company. As she currently pursues her graduate work, she also serves on the Town of New Paltz's Environmental Conservation Board where the Board is attempting to reduce pollution and runoff on the Walkkill River and improve the wastewater treatment facility there. Ultimately, Elizabeth aspires to create her own business in the Hudson Valley, which will bridge the gap and affect positive exchange between business and the field of clean energy technology and environmental sustainability.

Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers' Science Awardees

The Stolar Science Awards this year were presented to seniors Jonathan Davis from Livingston Manor High School and Evan Chesney from Roscoe High School.

This fall, Jonathon will attend Finger Lakes Community College where he will pursue his major in Natural Resources and Conservation Law Enforcement.

Evan will attend Sullivan County Community College this fall where he plans to major in Environmental Studies. After two years he plans to transfer to a college in Maine to complete his Bachelor's Degree in this field. His ultimate goal is to become an Environmental Conservation Officer for the State of Maine



Theodore Gordon on Trout Fishing:

"The first desideratum is to find time to go fishing. There is the rub in the case of most of us. We are so tied down to the pursuit of the essential dollar that we lose the best and most innocent pleasures that this old earth affords. Time flies so fast after youth is past that we cannot accomplish one-half the many things we have in mind, or indeed, one-half our duties. The only safe and sensible plan is to make other things give way to the essentials, and the first of these is flyfishing. There are few men so wise as Henry Thoreau. I do not think that he was a great angler, but he made time for the life which he desired to live and considered best for his own peculiar genius."



Conservation Committee

Update: Spring/Summer 2012

The Conservation Committee continues TGF's mission of protecting and preserving coldwater fisheries and improving our home waters. TGF has played a vital role on behalf of the river environment in New York State on the issue of "fracking" for natural gas extraction. TGF volunteers helped clean up the banks of the Willow and Beaverkill this spring, and sharp-eyed TGF members helped New York State DEC law enforcement officers identify damaging stream work done in the wake of Hurricanes Irene and Lee.

If you would like to get involved with the Committee, please let us know at conservation@tgf.org

Stream Restoration

Post Hurricane Irene Channelization

In the wake of the devastation caused by Irene and Lee, Governor Cuomo took the unprecedented, and misguided, step of suspending normal permitting requirements for work in streams and rivers. This move was supposed to allow only limited projects for emergency work to protect life and property. The unintended consequences of this decision were a number of poorly conceived and ecologically disastrous channelization projects across the state.

Conservation Committee members brought two such "projects" to the attention of New York DEC. One on Elm Hollow Brook, just upstream of the Old Rt. 17 culvert, leveled the flood plain and straightened the stream in an area far in excess of what the adjacent landowner was allowed under his existing permit. Once notified, DEC enforcement visited the site and is investigating. TGF also reported stream work in the wake of tropical storm Lee on Oquaga Creek in Broome County that was releasing significant silt into the stream. DEC enforcement officers investigated but unfortunately arrived after the work was completed. Feedback from DEC officials was very positive and we were told that effective enforcement depends on the eyes and ears of sportsmen and sportswomen. If you see something, say something.

Tributary T22B

We were not able to return to the spawning habitat restoration project on Tributary 22B, that flows into the Beaverkill at Trestle Pool this fall because of Hurricane Irene. Our next project is scheduled for September 2012. Please check the TGF.org website for the date and time.

Riverside Clean-up

Once again, TGF volunteers returned to the banks of the Willowemoc and Beaverkill for our annual stream clean-up day. This year we joined forces with the Long Island Flyrodders and the Catskill Flyfishing Museum and Center. Also joining us were scouts from Boy Scout Troops 93, 485, and 517 from Long Island. The group gathered at the Museum on May 7, with the TGF group focusing mainly on Hazel Bridge pool on the Willow, around Junction pool, and around Wagon Tracks pool on the Beaverkill. The group removed a sizeable pile of trash from the stream banks.

Delaware Flows

TGF has worked closely with other conservation organizations to provide viable water management solutions to the parties that control the management of New York City's reservoirs in the Upper Delaware basin.

In 2010, the "Decree Parties," that is, the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and the City of New York implemented a management plan based, in part, on recommendations made in the so-called Joint fisheries White Paper. As part of the effort to address this and other important issues in the Basin, TGF joined forces with other conservation organizations to form the Delaware Watershed Conservation Coalition ("DWCC").

TGF and the DWCC supported the "White Paper" approach in letters to the Delaware River Basin Commission. The management plan, which also incorporates a predictive computer model developed by New York City DEP, was enacted for one year. The results for the 2011 water year were largely positive, though high rainfall last summer makes it difficult to assess how effective this management plan would be in a dry year. Summer 2012 has begun with several days of excessive heat that have put significant stress on trout in each of the Upper Delaware streams. Some additional water was released to mitigate temperature spikes but TGF is working with the DWCC to develop a better plan for future emergency releases.

Pinky Tuscadero

was Definitely the Slutty One

From the Blog: Fly Fish Chick

I like to come up with names for bands and flies even though no one seems to appreciate any of my ideas.

Like Rumble Strip for a band. Or The Tongue Depressor (Say Ah!) for a fly. Or my latest fly moniker, Pinky Tuscadero, which I came up with on the South Fork. Let me back up...

To kick off his 50th birthday week the Professor wanted to peel away from our little hamlet in southwest Montana and find a new adventure, and perhaps some luxury. After much research we zeroed in on the overnite trip offered by Worldcast Anglers on the South Fork of the Snake River in Idaho. We liked the



idea of glamping overnite in the middle of the 26-mile two-day float but kinda wanted the adventure of rowing/fishing the river ourselves. So we called Worldcast and asked them if we could just pop into the camp as overnite guests but fish ourselves sans guides. They were all over it.

So, after much planning and mapping and gearing up we launched on this new excursion. I have to say, Idaho boat ramps are on steroids compared to Montana's. So professional with their staging areas, and lanes drawn

on the concrete. Not to mention flow reports and ramp rules.



The flyshops and guides we had talked to had offered encouraging but slightly reserved reports about the fishing. You could catch them on nymphs for sure and the dry fly fishing could explode any day now.

Hmmm. Not ideal but we were prepared either way. We decided to ignore the unsolicited

and super grumpy report from the guy at the weed inspection station on the Montana-Idaho border who said the river was too high and no fish were rising and it wasn't worth our effort. When he said he preferred to sit on the bank and try to catch'em with corn and worms, we glanced at each other and silently made a pact not to get down on the fishing quite yet.

Onward.

Our first morning on the South Fork matched the flyshop reports. We were catching them on nymphs. But an accidental decision to follow a braid we hadn't meant to proved to be the birthday gem of the trip. We weren't familiar with this part of the river so we were regularly checking our maps to see how far we'd gone, anxious pretty much all day about not missing the takeout and making sure we were tracking on time and river miles. So after we accidentally took the braid river right, the Professor back-rowed up a little cut to anchor up and check the map. In doing so he spotted the first rising fish of the day. Then I saw another. And another.

A Pod! Of rising fish! In the blazing hot glaring sun smack dab in the middle of the day. Immediately the Professor dug into his South Fork box and said, "I've got just the thing. Fish on this river like pink. I have a little PMD pattern called Pink Lady." We put it on and ka boom. Nice cutthroat. And another. And

another. We fished the same spot for three hours. We caught so many fish it was giddy fun. At one point I said,

"You know, this kind of fishing could make me a fish counter."

But I forgot to count. I was having too much fun watching them come up and eat. Eat naturals, eat my pink fly. I was picking trout out of the pod and calling them like pockets on a pool table. Some easy fishing for once in my life. We tricked them on a few other patterns but 90% of the success was on the pink PMD. I didn't like the term Pink Lady, not very original so I suggested we rename it.

"Pink Lemonade?"

"Too little kiddish."



Like Rainman I pulled this name out of my sub-sub-conscious not even knowing what I was saying. "Pinky Tuscadero?"

"Who's that?"

"I don't know. Haven't you heard of Pinky Tuscadero? How do I know that name?"

Slowly the memories started creeping back in. I was pretty sure Pinky Tuscadero was a character on Happy Days. She was Joanie's friend right? Or wait, was she the slutty one? The sort of Girl version of the Fonz? But which one was Joanie's friend? Wait, what was the other name? Jenny Piccolo? Who's Jenny Piccolo? Which one was the cutesy girl and which one was the slutty one?

Ah, life deep in a canyon off the grid without Google. Damn.

These cutthroat were so crazed, bumping into

each other chasing after our pink pmd that finally it was so obvious.

“Of course Pinky Tuscadero was the slutty one!”

And that is how I renamed the fly of the trip.

In the middle of our cutthroat bonanza we took a little time for lunch. Egg salad with ham, a sandwich my family has always called ‘The Bonefish Special’. For some reason we always eat these in the Bahamas but I decided to bring it to freshwater.

We motored on and enjoyed the scenery of the canyon...

Our only concern leading up to this trip was how to find the takeout. We’d heard it was easy to miss so we asked the flyshop for the GPS coordinates. They didn’t have them. It took two trips to the flyshop, two guys in the shop, one guide who worked there, one guide who worked for the competition but happen to wander in, and two maps before we finally felt



like we knew what we were looking for when aiming for the takeout. Pass the primitive camp on the right, look for a riffle (fish it), ease left, half a mile down on the left is our outfitter’s camp. With two sets of stairs

and a jetboat parked out front. The cook Jeff would be waiting for us.

Seemed obvious enough right?

About the predicted time of day we saw the primitive camp on the right. We eased left immediately to be safe. We never really saw a distinct riffle but we were done fishing and focused on cocktails, appetizers and glamping so we were hugging the left. There was a narrow braid off the left that we didn’t take but



other than that, we felt pretty confident we hadn’t missed any turns.

But then we started feeling like we had gone too far. What was that little trail through the bushes? There was a very narrow, primitive trail. No stairs or jetboat. But it seemed the right thing to check it out. With Bootsy Collins I wasn’t much help in the role of Deets so we anchored up and the Professor ventured up the path.

I was beginning to worry he’d been captured by Comanches but finally he reappeared,

“Well, there’s a campsite up there but it’s empty. The tents aren’t set up and no one is there.”

We were cracking. Concern in our little drift boat was contagious like a plague.

“We haven’t missed it have we?” he asked.

“How in the world could we have missed it?”

We reviewed the maps. Talked each other through the instructions we’d both heard. We eased down the bank further and both realized we were about to lose the left bank as it evolved into a high cliff wall and the river turned right.

I remembered, “He said it was right before the river turns right.”

“Well we are running out of bank. We’ve missed it.”

The Professor dropped the anchor. I had to agree, I was beginning to think we’d missed it as well. But the Professor was devastated.



Thoroughly defeated he called it, "I can't believe it we've missed it. That's it. We have to row out."

"What!?!? Whoa. That's another 13 miles!"

"It's almost 6 pm. If we row straight out in about 4 hours we would have light most of the way."



"Hold on. Let's just pro/con our options. They will come looking for us in the jet boat at some point when we don't show up."

I wanted to go up into the brush and hike around and find the camp but

the broken ankle was limiting me.

"Even if they do come looking for us they won't even think we're late until 7:30 or 8. And if they don't then we don't have enough light to row out." He was so dejected.

"Okay," I agreed with reservation. "But just go slowly here. He said it was right before the river turns right and we do have a little bank left."

We lifted anchor and started easing down the bank. In just a few strokes and a few yards down from where we were panicking I saw the jetboat. I saw it first from the bow of the boat, but I didn't want to say anything in case it was a mirage. This damn jetboat was muted and camouflaged like it was going duck hunting in the delta. Hardly the neon orange sparkly jetboat I was needing to indicate the takeout.

A nanosecond later the Professor saw it too, "There's the jetboat."

"And there are the stairs!"

Jeff the cook appeared immediately like a genie and a puff of smoke from a gold lamp. He helped us tie down the boat and welcomed us with wine and appetizers. Meanwhile we could not stop laughing that we completely panicked within ear shot of the campsite.

Thank heavens we didn't have to row off that



river because we loved the glampsite!

The rest of the clients and guides showed up, spirits were high and we enjoyed a feast of beef tenderloin, campfire cocktail, and a full moon that almost peeked over the cliff before we all slipped away to cozy tents and al fresco slumber. I heard glamping.



And the Pinky Tuscadero fly.



[The FLY FISH CHICK is an occasional blog about flyfishing, mostly, and life. You can find it at FlyFishChick@live.com. Our thanks to her for permission to reprint this account of a fun trip! Editor.]

TGF's

H a t T r a v e l s



This is Shawn Moore, son of TGF member Doug Moore wearing a TGF hat, and his sister, Karin, at the "Fish Church" (actually a fish market) in Gothenburg, Sweden, in late August.