



Gordon's Quill

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The Ephemera of Home Waters

Terry Brykczynski

For many years, I have been an avid collector of ephemera—things that are important or useful for only a brief time. The origin of the word is *ephemeron*, Greek for a short-lived insect or flower. Since you are a member of the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, you fish with flies, and no doubt you are probably thinking this is leading to a well-worn metaphor for the poetically condensed, but tragic life of the mayfly, of the order Ephemeroptera, and that would be a good guess, but wrong. Rather, it's about ephemera of another sort, specifically old paper items—pamphlets, trade cards, catalogs, tickets, etc.—that were originally meant to be discarded, but have since become collectibles to fanatics such as I. Especially old photographs. Even more specifically, old photographs of Theodore Gordon.

The standard photographs of Gordon are relentlessly published over and over again, until the familiar face and poses have now assumed the status of subliminal angling icons. There are fewer than half a dozen of them. Here he is posing with his dog and bird gun that he used to collect fly-tying materials. Here he is sitting more formally, a Southern gentleman nattily attired in white high collar, fancy suit, and gazing off-camera in deep reflection. Here he is streamside, accompanied by his mysterious lady chum, both decked out in angling finery. You can see the originals in the collections of the American Museum of Fly Fishing and the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, and they are well worth a pilgrimage.



But suppose there exists another photograph of Theodore Gordon, one that has never been republished? One that instead of a stiffly formal pose shows him actually fishing, rod held out in active manipulation, teasing flies in gurgling waters? Suppose this old photograph of Theodore Gordon was found decades ago in the mezzanine of a midtown hotel owned by the Reverend Sun Yung Moon, who, at the time,

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President's Spring Message 2016



The mild winter months are behind us now, and it is time to enjoy fishing in our rivers while they are still cool. As I had mentioned in a previous message, there was very little snow in the Catskill Mountains from November through March. And because of this, the Beaverkill, Willowemoc, Neversink, and other waters are lower than normal and already warming up. Hendricksons were two to four weeks early when

temperatures climbed into the 80s in March.

Our Annual Meeting and Dinner in March was great success, thanks to Warren Stern, who chaired the event at the Anglers' Club of New York. He and his committee did a wonderful job setting up the evening's activities from start to finish. The evening was fun for all, and, it was also a very good fund-raiser for TGF.

The first order of business for the evening was our meeting to elect directors for the next three years. Our board of directors lost a wonderful member and great asset for TGF, Shannon Brightman. But she and her husband, Doug, will be living where many of us will envy them—Bozeman, Montana. Shannon's replacement on the board is Jessica Steinberg Albin. You will be able to read her short and very impressive biography in this issue of the *Quill*. Jessica will be a great asset with on the TGF board and committee activities.

Our Conservation Committee chair, Chuck Neuner, arranged for Tracy Brown to make a presentation at the dinner about future projects that TGF can take part in. Chuck is working with her presently, and he will present to the board recommendations about possible culvert projects on tributaries to the Beaverkill or Willowemoc that will improve trout habitat there.

In the next few months, TGF will again be sponsoring students to the Department of Environmental Conservation summer camps. This is part of our education program, and the students that we send usually come from the New York City area. Board director David Berman works with teaching staff in New York City to help identify candidates for the week-long camp in the Catskills. We will also be giving the Joan and Arthur Science Award to seniors graduating from the Roscoe and Livingston Manor High Schools.

Bert Darrow, President
Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

Meet the Newest Member of the TGF Board of Directors

Jessica Steinberg Albin

Jessica Steinberg Albin is an assistant counsel at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Region 2. As an assistant counsel, Jessica enforces the New York State tidal wetlands, freshwater wetlands, Superfund, and Brownfield laws in the five boroughs of New York City. Additionally, she helps draft policies and regulations and has assisted the Office of Hearings and Mediation Services in reviewing and drafting decisions and orders for violations of New York State environmental laws.

Prior to working at NYSDEC, Jessica was an associate at Sive, Paget, and Riesel, P.C. Her work included representing public-sector and private-sector clients in all aspects of environmental law and litigation and related land-use matters.

Jessica graduated from Pace Law School in 2007. While there, she earned a certificate in environmental law and completed a joint degree with Bard College, where she earned a master of science degree in environmental policy. She served as a case note–comment editor of the *Pace Law Review*, interned for the Land Use Law Center, helped chair the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, and spent a summer at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. Jessica’s master’s thesis explored how appraisal methods for charitable contributions of conservation easements may lead to abuse of the tax code. She argued that the charitable contribution program is necessary to incentivize land conservation (with all its attendant benefits) and that more uniform appraisal methods and greater oversight of the appraisal process would help curb potential abuse of the tax code. Prior to law school, Jessica taught middle school science and Latin in Miami, Florida. She graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2001 with a double major in public policy and environmental studies.

Jessica was a member of the New York City Bar Environmental Law Committee from February 2012 until June 2015 and a member of the 2008 New York City Environmental Law Leadership Institute (NYCELLI) class.

In addition to her legal pursuits, Jessica is an active volunteer with New York Cares and serves on their Rising Leaders Committee. Jessica volunteers at soup kitchens and school education activities. She is a member of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, NYC, Inc. Junior Committee and formerly served as their advocacy chair. She is responsible for fund-raising and increasing awareness for both groups. She also was among the first recipients of the TGF Founders Fund scholarship.



The Good Fight

News from the TGF Conservation Committee

First, Do No Harm:

Stream Restoration vs. Stream Engineering

Charles Neuner

The differences between restoration and engineering in the area of stream improvements are subtle, but the effect on the long-term health of a stream and its surrounding environment are significant. It's the difference between working with and against natural forces and processes.

Most rivers and streams in the United States have existed since the last ice age, and some for millions of years. Many of the streams in the Catskills and the mountains bordering them first began to flow when primordial seas retreated and precipitation slowly carved its way down into the exposed strata. The valleys of the Catskills are much like the Grand Canyon in that the tops of the mountains began as a plain in which the rivers then cut their way down to their present levels. The process continues to this day, and managing this process and its effects is where restoration and engineering become issues.

There is little that we can do to control the continual self-transformation of a trout stream. Each year, weather affects the flow and direction of a river, and during weather events, the power of water under flood conditions is more than many can imagine. One needs only to walk along a river after a flood to see evidence of that power. Fishing along the Beaverkill after spring floods, I have seen car axles in the branches of trees and I beams twisted like pretzels. Observing such damage one can readily see the futility in attempting to make permanent changes to otherwise natural and relentless conditions.

There is a small house on Old Route 17, not far from the covered bridge, built directly on the bank of the Willowemoc. As of this writing, it is still there, and I have been told that it was built sometime around 1950. It is located directly on the river's edge and on a bend in the stream facing oncoming current. By all accounts, it should have been washed away by innumerable floods decades ago, yet there it is. The reason it has survived is that it is built on a natural rock formation that resists the current and protects the house from the direct impact of water, debris, and ice in times of flood. Larger man-made structures on the same river, built less than twenty years ago and carefully engineered of stone and steel, have long since washed away.

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commanded a fleet of small craft off Gloucester and Montauk, harvesting bluefin tuna to sell in Tokyo's Tsukiji Market? Well, parts of these claims I know are true, because I was there. I found the photograph. I knew people who fished for Reverend Moon. And occasionally, I take the photograph out of its storage box and look at it, mesmerized. Sometimes, for a very brief time, I think I'm sure it's Theodore Gordon. An ephemerally brief time. Let me tell you why.

I used to belong to a club of paper fanatics—The Metropolitan Postcard Club of New York. Once a year, the club sponsored a market show where dozens of superannuated, grizzled dealers from around the world would set up rickety tables and hawk their wares. The club often chose as a location the cheapest rental venue in town—the mezzanine of the New Yorker Hotel near Penn Station. This dreary, rather shabby hotel has a long history of hosting eclectic guests. Nikola Tesla spent the last ten years of his life in near seclusion, feeding pigeons from suite 3327, where he died. Muhammad Ali recovered in the hotel after his fight with Joe Frazier at the Garden. In no particular order, the entire roster of the Brooklyn Dodgers stayed there, as did Fidel Castro and Spencer Tracy. Seeing a good real estate deal, the Unification Church bought it and began to restore the hotel to its former glory, such as it was. Incidentally, if you want to read some of the most poignant, elegiac, and radical essays about saltwater fishing in general and fishing for bluefin tuna specifically, search for two underappreciated lectures given by the Reverend Sun Yung Moon in the 1980s, which rank among the most amazing in angling literature.

The hotel paper show was inescapably grimy, literally gritty from decomposing particulate matter. Think dust. Clouds of crumbling acidic cardboard dust and gray puffs of powdery decay. Shoeboxes crammed full of cheap five-for-a-dollar postcards and cases of more expensive images in acid-free plastic sheets protected against grubby fingers and ink-smudged palms. Mostly postcards, but if you prospected carefully in odd corners and in between bins, there lurked other items of potential graphic interest—broadsides, bills, gum wrappers, matchbook covers, and printed cards of all sorts.

Needless to say, attendees were an odd lot. Mostly retired pensioners, myopic, obsessive introverts killing time (like me), and assorted ne'er-do-wells representing the full range of the autistic Aspergers spectrum. Flipping through the crammed crates and cartons, often I would bump elbows with the cosmetics magnate Leonard Lauder, then actively assembling an astounding collection of 120,000 postcards of beautiful Art Deco Muchas, Russian czars, and Bauhaus artists that he would later donate to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

We all liked to look at images. Something about them generated pleasure in our brains. We had to see pictures, the more the better, the stranger the better, the more beautiful and rarer the better. Eye candy is what they were, and we deliriously dipped our fingers in the overflowing bowls.

It was during one of those shows that I found it. In a dusty shoebox of cast-off rejects. An old trade card. Filed under the category "Fishing." The dealer wanted five dollars. But I half remember negotiating it down a few bucks because it had suffered the most undignified insult a piece of ephemera could endure—the lower third was lopped off and ignominiously trimmed. On one side was a picture of a gentleman dressed in old clothes fishing in a stream. I had no thoughts about who the fisherman was, he just looked interesting. On the card's back was an advertisement for a tackle company. Since catching my first trout on a fly in

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**The Good Fight "First, Do No Harm:
Stream Restoration vs. Stream Engineering** (continued from page 4)

The fundamental difference between the two is that the house is built on an outcropping of rock that evolved naturally over millennia, a site determined by and reconciled with the forces of nature, whereas the man-made structures were engineered with the interests of human activities and preferences in mind, working against nature, not with it, and efforts against nature ultimately become a war of attrition in which nature ultimately wins.

There is no guarantee that any work done to restore the condition of a trout stream is going to last, but it is certain that any work that does not respect and complement the stream's natural predisposition and historic tendencies is an exercise in futility, regardless of design or intention.

Planting trees and other bankside vegetation is a good example of an efficiently and appropriately applied restoration effort. Although the plantings may also be far from permanent, for the reasons mentioned, by planting streamside vegetation and enhancing riparian zones, we are simply expediting a natural process that would happen on its own over a more protracted time frame.

The same holds true of bank restoration and similar projects where conditions altered by human intervention are returned a more natural condition when human activities have had a negative effect on otherwise natural conditions and processes. Good examples of this are the stone walls along the Beaverkill at Painter's Bend and the Acid Factory, built to stabilize the bank altered to build Old Route 17, and our recent project on Horse Brook, in which an open-bottom box culvert was used to replace pipe culverts in order to restore more natural flow and streambed conditions. Similar opportunities exist, and we should continue to seek to find ways that we can implement and assist in projects that restore conditions that complement and facilitate natural processes and stream dynamics.

It is important that we consider the projects that we engage in from a standpoint of sustainability and appropriateness to prevailing natural conditions and that we focus our efforts on long-term solutions that enhance and expedite the river's natural healing process.



TGF Invited to the Salty Flyrodders of N Y Annual Conclave



The forty-ninth annual Salty Flyrodders Tournament and Conclave will be held on June 10, 11, 12, 2016, at the Sound View Inn, Greenport. The two-night, three-day event will feature local Long Island guides to show the way on the beaches, FFF fly-casting instruction from beginner to advanced, and a Friday afternoon review of the local beaches, including a fishing report, a catching report, and an overview of the flies that should do the trick.

The catch-and-release tournament will feature a prize for the largest striper, and the raffle of quality equipment, flies, and reels will feature a Scott fly rod, a Tabor reel, and half-day guided trips. Also in the works is a ladies-only casting class, as well as novice instruction for kids.

You already have received an application via TGF Bulletin e-mail, For questions, queries, and more information, contact Joel Filner, jbf1@earthlink.net, (212) 486-0443.

The Ephemera of Home Waters (continued from page 5)

Newfoundland when I was ten, I'd always been keen on fishing, but after I bought the card, tossed it into my bag, and took it home, I forgot about it. Years later, after I joined a different club of fanatics (fly-fishing conservationists), I remembered the photo and now and then would look at it. Gradually, I began to become absorbed by visual clues emanating from this particular piece of ephemera. Clues I can share. With your appreciation that these clues are not evidence, but perhaps illusionary artifacts of speculation . . .

Height—For sure, the fishing gentleman is not as tall as a typical basketball player of his time. And it's unfortunate that he's not standing next to something that can be measured. But he looks short to me. About as short as the real Theodore Gordon—five-foot three.

Face—Theo or just another Abercrombie & Fitch male model? Darn it, it just looks like him.

Hat,—Not quite Indiana Jones, but kind of what one would imagine Theo would wear.

Mustache—Although with mustaches, admittedly, it is somewhat of a task to find a notable angler at the turn of the nineteenth century who did not possess a walrus, handlebar, chevron, soup strainer, cookie duster, dirt squirrel, lip weasel, or mouth merkin.

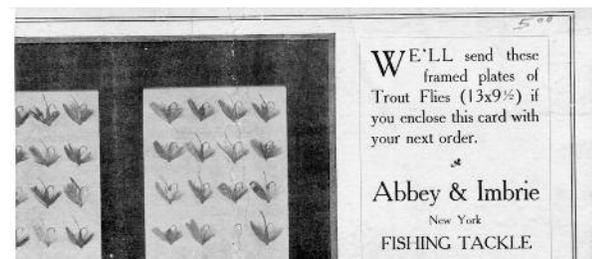
Rod—Perhaps keener eyes than mine can discern whether it's a Payne or a Leonard; I can't. We know Theo changed his mind in his later years about rod lengths and ended up admitting to his friend Steenrod that he preferred "a small dainty fly rod [that] you like to handle and fiddle with.'

River—I've fished, stumbled over boulders, and fallen in the Neversink many, many times, but only in the areas open to the public. Limited access was not a problem in Theo's fortunate time (and one of the reasons I joined TGF). This could be any trib there. The geology seems extraordinarily similar. Springtime? Possibly visible are burgeoning sprouts of wild ramps (before hordes of marauding foragers decimate the patches for the local farm-to-table bistro).

So, are these clues enough to convince you? If they did, you must be pretty gullible, because they're not clues as much as stabs in the dark, smoking-and-inhaling guesses. If you want real clues, turn the trade card over and look at the other side.

First of all, what is a trade card? Popular in the nineteenth century, they are early examples of the modern business card, distributed to advertise and promote a company and its products. Some are simple, some are extremely sophisticated, especially in the era when color printing via lithography was still a novelty. So what business is advertised on the back of this one?

Abbey & Imbrie—This was a well-known New York City wholesale and retail tackle shop that also did business through mail-order catalogs. They themselves didn't make much of anything, but rather contracted with manufacturers and stamped the A&I name on items in their line. It is known that A&I routinely used similar promotional marketing materials. In the 1908 supplement to their catalog is an offer to subscribe to *Country Life* magazine: "No need to write a letter to get this beautiful magazine. Simply put your name and address across the picture and return this circular with \$4 and get a subscription." Abbey & Imbrie was certainly in business during the time Theodore Gordon was fishing in Rockland County and the Catskills, but unfortunately, there's no date



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NOAA Assessments of Vulnerability of Fish to Climate Change

Warren R. Stern

Those of us who pursue game fish in our local salt waters may be interested in a recent study assessing the vulnerability of eighty-two marine fish and invertebrate species to climate change. Among the species assessed are four that are frequently pursued by fly anglers in our area: striped bass, Atlantic salmon, bluefish, and weakfish. The study was conducted by scientists working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, more commonly known as NOAA, who focused on the waters off the northeastern United States. The study is the first in a series of evaluations planned for U.S. fisheries, with the expectation that the evaluations will improve fisheries management and scientific research.

The methodology used in the assessments has been developed over five years. The key metric is “vulnerability,” which NOAA defines to mean “the extent to which abundance or productivity of a species in the region could be impacted by climate change and decadal variability.” A “low vulnerability” species is one with an “ability to shift distributions in a changing climate.” The studies assess “vulnerability” by considering twelve attributes relating to the population, reproduction, habitat sensitivity, and mobility of the species in light of various “exposure variables” derived from climate studies and projections.

The study concluded that “overall climate vulnerability is high to very high for approximately half the species assessed,” that “the majority of species included in the assessment have a high potential for a change in distribution in response to projected changes in climate,” and that “negative effects of climate change are expected for approximately half of the species assessed, but some species are expected to be positively affected (e.g., increase in productivity or move into the region).”

With respect to the species of interest mentioned above, the assessment ranked the vulnerability of striped bass and Atlantic salmon as “very high,” weakfish as “moderate,” and bluefish as “low.” That said, and putting aside data quality and statistical measures of uncertainty, the study states that the “effect of climate change on Striped Bass on the Northeast U.S. Shelf is estimate to be neutral,” that the “effect of climate change on the Atlantic Salmon in the Northeast U.S. Shelf Ecosystem is very likely to be negative,” that the “effect of climate change on Weakfish on the Northeast U.S. Shelf is estimated to be neutral,” and that “the effect of climate change on Bluefish on the Northeast U.S. Shelf is very likely to be positive.”

The study is entitled “A Vulnerability Assessment of Fish and Invertebrates to Climate Change on the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf.” It can be found at <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0146756>.



The Ephemera of Home Waters (continued from page 7)

on the trade card. But there is a . . .

Fishing Plate Offer—Beside two images of prints of fishing flies are printed “We’ll send these framed plates of Trout Flies (13 x 9 ½) if you enclose this card with your next order.” Can we date the prints? Well, on the last section of A&I’s 1907 mail-order catalog (just before the ordering page) is pictured the identical two plates. This would place the date of the trade card to “around” 1907, which is not a smoking gun, but the best I can do right now. I blame whoever cut the bottom third of the card, where the exact date was surely printed!

Celebrity Endorsement—So why would a tackle company put a picture of a working fisherman on a card advertising their business? Isn’t that a modern thing? Not really. In the same 1907 A&I catalog is printed a letter by G. M. L. La Branche of 30 Broad St., New York, praising a canvas boat and extolling its virtues. Yes, that La Branche. So marketing hasn’t changed much. But was Theo prominent enough in the local angling community at that time to have worth as a celebrity endorser?

Hooks—One of Gordon’s fly patterns was described in an article in *Forest & Stream* as being “first made up commercially by a well-known New York tackle house, generally known as the ‘Gordon,’ [and] was called a Golden Spinner by Gordon himself. It was never as successful on Neversink waters as the Blue Quill Gordon.” There is a connection between Gordon and another tackle manufacturer of the time that did sell this pattern. The 1909 William Mills catalog lists the Gordon fly among a list around 50 patterns on their “Extra Quality ‘Special Stream’ Flies” page. Could this be the tackle house mentioned in the article? Mills sold the Gordon fly for \$1 per dozen, a hefty premium over their lesser-quality flies at \$0.23 to \$0.60 per dozen. In an estate auction of the late Gordon’s proven possessions, he had in a William Mills & Son tackle box “Sproat hooks by Abbie & Imbrie.” So we know that Gordon was definitely aware of A&I. But was the public aware of Theodore Gordon?

The *New York Times* >< —Apparently the newspaper of record thought Theo had enough celebrity to be worthy of reporting on June 24, 1900: “Anglers who are interested in the entomology of fly fishing will be glad to know that Theodore Gordon, the famous amateur fly tyer, is at Hornbook’s, at Rockland, for the season. His studies will no doubt have interesting and valuable results.”

So is the photograph on this trade card really Theodore Gordon? Are its clues the embedded beacon and cookie that link this remnant to our storied angling legend? My vote for the most depressing words in fly fishing history are: “We are left to speculate. . . .” My hope is that one more search string on the Internet will provide the smoking gun. My fear is that the quest stalls and becomes a matter of faith. My mystery is whether we believe our lives are becoming less or more ordered, our purpose on the planet less or more filled with meaning. Is this trade card the ultimate in ephemera, the last remaining artifact, the one and only survivor hopelessly fluttering in anonymous perpetuity?

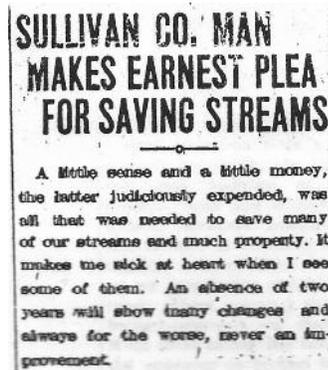


Terry Brykczynski is the author of the novel Caged (Crown), and edited The Armchair Angler (Scribners), an anthology of fishing stories. He created TGF's first Web site, writing HTML 1.0 code in an ASCII text editor, a forlorn feat somewhat akin to tying flies by hand without a vise. He is a life member of TGF.

Theodore Gordon on Conservation

Sullivan Co. Man Makes Earnest Plea for Saving Streams

From the *Liberty Register*, Friday, March 28, 1913



A little sense and a little money, the latter judiciously expended, was all that was needed to save many of our streams and much property. It makes me sick at heart when I see some of them. An absence of two years will show many changes and always for the worse, never an improvement.

Now the great age of electricity has turned men's attention to the streams as sources of power, Far-sighted capital is at work and will own most of the streams of rapid descent. Great dams are being planned and built and large areas will be turned into lakes. The old dams and water powers that were so numerous thirty years ago have vanished, except for a tumble-down structure here and there weakened by neglect and time they have yielded to the battering of floods and ice. They would have protected the streams to some extent and make them less torrential in character. The country has been lumbered again and again. First the evergreen forest was destroyed; in great part for the bark alone; then the best of the deciduous trees, and now anything and everything down to six inches in diameter. The methods are careless and wasteful. Wherever a little stand of decent timber remains it is sought for and cut down. Conservation of the natural resources is a great movement, but it will not reach many of the finest valleys in the Eastern states in time to be of service. The ownership of land is in many hands and the people must consider their own interests and the interests of the younger generation. The principles of use, without abuse, of our wooded lands should have been taught in the public schools fifty years ago, but people are studying these matters, giving them more attention than in the past. We have only to look across the sea to Germany to see that a great revenue can be derived from the trees without destroying the forests and wood lots. The natural cover of the water sheds must be preserved, in one form or another, or great loss will follow. The snowfall and the rainfall are becoming more irregular and uncertain. The same amount of moisture may be precipitated during one year but it is of comparatively little service as it rushes seaward in torrents. We do not get the showers in summer which were so beneficial to vegetation and kept the lands fresh and smiling. Water powers will constantly increase in value and should be preserved in the interest of property owners, as well as of the public. It is of no use to sit down and say: "It is too late now." Something can be done. Our people are intelligent and thoughtful and should not depend entirely upon acts of Congress. The damage and loss since 1903-4 have been very great. Where the cover has been removed many brooks, formerly unfailing, go dry every summer and the largest streams are reduced to trifling proportions. Springs and wells fail and farmers are compelled to draw water from a distance for their stock. Much good land has been carried away by the floods or covered with sand to such an extent as to be useless for cultivation. The streams hold potential wealth as well as destructiveness. Their energies may be harnessed to yield immense power, which can be carried long distances. Large cities are within easy reach and locally the streams may bring prosperity to all dwellers in their vicinity. Their energy may bring light, heat, and power to small villages and towns, and make "good times" permanent. Think about these things and consider how far it lies in your power to assist in saving the streams and their valleys.

—THEODORE GORDON

Text and photostat copy
courtesy of David Berman
and Ed Van Put.



TGF Annual Dinner

The highlight of the 2016 TGF Annual Dinner on March 22, 2016, at the Anglers' Club of New York, was the presentation by Tracy Brown, Trout Unlimited's northeastern restoration coordinator, on future conservation projects that will be undertaken by TU with the assistance of TGF and its Culvert Remediation Initiative. Following a video put together by the Nature Conservancy on similar remediation work in the Adirondacks, Brown presented details of the work that, following the successful completion of the Horse Brook project, TU and TGF will be undertaking on other tributaries to the Beaverkill and Willowemoc. Brown noted that climate change has brought and will continue to bring an increasing number of extreme weather events and that existing infrastructure features such as road culverts exacerbate the problems caused by such events on Catskill streams. The successful completion of the Horse Brook project, she noted, is only the beginning of an important ongoing effort to improve the health and secure the future of the fabled trout waters of the Catskills.

As always, the Anglers' Club provided outstanding food and drink, the cocktail hour renewed old acquaintances and made new friends, and participants in the raffle and silent and open auctions went home happy. Many thanks go to TGF board member Warren Stern for organizing this year's event.

In Memoriam Mari Lyons

It is with deep regret that Theodore Gordon Flyfishers notes the passing on April 3 of one of our greatest friends, Mari Lyons.

Many of our members knew Mari as part of the Lyons team: the author/publisher Nick Lyons, almost always accompanied by his wife, Mari. Much as TGF loves Nick, we are extremely grateful for the presence of Mari, for it was she who brought light and color to the pair. Nick paints with words, devoting serious thought and humor to the pastime of fly fishing that we all so love. But Mari used oil and tinted water and canvas to give expression to her feelings. As quiet and gentle as Mari appeared, her paintings were large and bold, so telling of her study and exploration of the time.

Mari learned from many notable painters and explored the styles of many more. Most recently, she adopted the magic of Georges Braque to create her own images for her fifteenth solo exhibition in New York City in the show *Floating Palettes and Other Recent Work*, which opened in October 2015.

Mari painted for all eyes—her vivid artwork is included in collections around the world—but in our little niche of fly fishing, Mari's watercolors speak to the angler. Her work can be found gracing the covers of numerous books, especially those wrapped around the artful words of her husband.

Years ago, Mari explained that she used to sit in the car waiting for Nick to satisfy his yen for fishing until the day she ventured to the water and discovered scenes waiting for paint. From that time forward, Mari did not simply accompany her husband on an angling trip, she became part of the experience, capturing life and feelings for all time.

This is the Mari Lyons we admired, the artist who presented us with fly-fishing images that speak to every angler. Like all of us, Mari found fly fishing through an element that she loved. In her case, it was painting, and we are so grateful that she shared her talent and what she saw with the angling world.

Theodore Gordon Flyfishers was fortunate to be the recipient of Mari Lyons's grace when she gave us the use of her artwork for the 2014 Annual Day Dinner, the night we honored Nick Lyons. Mari's contemplative image of an angler casting into the water, oblivious to anything beyond his fishing, was the scene she chose to paint when she accompanied her husband to the water that day. In this artwork, TGF sees what Mari saw: we see Nick; we see a fly fisher and the beautiful blue river he is casting into; we see ourselves and our own days on the water.

We hope our thoughts will be of comfort to her husband, Nick, her four children, and her grandchildren.

Thank you, Mari, for the light and color you brought to our lives.

