



Hi Viz Beetle – see inside on how to tie the Fly of the Month

Clearwater Currents

**The Official Publication of the Clearwater Chapter of
Trout Unlimited
17 Sutherland Drive Watervliet, NY 12189**

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*America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization
Promoting Habitat for Wild Trout and Salmon
Trout Unlimited Has Been Fighting for Coldwater Fisheries
Conservation for 56 Years*

Join us before each meeting at 6:30pm for a tying demonstration. Meetings begin at 7:30pm, the third Monday of each month (except Banquet month, July and August), at the Albany Ramada located on Watervliet Avenue Extension off Exit 5 of I-90 (Everett Road).

Upcoming Events

June 20 Chapter General Meeting – 6:30pm guest tier and 7:30 featured speaker
June 25 – 26 New York State Free Fishing Days

Board of Directors/Staff

President	Scott Parker	894-4661	ExOfficio	Heath Clayson	573-6008
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Battenkill	Greg Cuda	587-1189	Banquet	Jessica Galasso	716-913-5550
Board Member	Glenn Kuhles	869-0817	Banquet	Bill Cosgrove	766-2405
Website	Trevor Tripp	380-6614			
Disabled Angler Program	Bart Chabot	393-9918			

Clearwater Chapter of TU PO Box 9686 Schenectady, NY 12309
www.ClearwaterTU.org

Clearwater Chapter General Meeting

At press time there was no information provided about the Clearwater Meeting scheduled for Monday June 20, 2016. Meeting starts at 6:30pm with a guest fly tier and the featured speaker starts at 7pm. At the Ramada Inn off exit 5 of I-90 Albany. Free of charge and all are welcome.

Fish of the Month 2016 Contest in Full Gear

Mark A Brown

The Chapter's Fish of the Month Contest is already in its sixth year having crowned **Rich Atkinson, Noe Mead, Jim Berry, Bill Bach, Ron Boutin, Brad Mohr, Jim Boyle** and for 2015, **Paul Kalacs** winners in its first eight years.

The contest is open to all members (except me!) and family members of Chapter members and is not necessarily based on the biggest fish, but the quality of the fish, story behind it and picture quality all make up a winning entry. Simply send a photograph to me at my email address at mrbrownie6@gmail.com or contact me via email for my mailing address if you have a Polaroid or 35mm shot. As the entries come I'll publish them in the newsletter and select a winner at the March Banquet when the winner will get a dozen hand tied flies or something else really nice as a prize.

Jeff Bull's grandson is the May 2016 Fish of the Month entrant. *Editor's Note – Jeff Bull's grandson's name that was not included at press time in May is Will Partridge – congratulations to Will on being the May Fish of the Month entrant!*

There were no entrants for June.

2016 Hendrickson Hatch Tournament Results

After taking a year off, 2016 marked a return of the Hendrickson Hatch fly fishing tournament. This year's tournament had 50 participants. Below are results of the top ten finishers based on total inches of fish measured. Only fish over 12 inches can be recorded. Special thanks to Brookfield Renewable Energy, JP Ross Fly Rods, and other sponsors for supporting this year's tournament.

Largest fish - 19.5 inches - Bud Garlock

1st - Jan Wojick - 313 inches
2nd - Mitchell Miletich - 160
3rd - Bar Aiken - 124
4th - Kim Walchko - 89
5th - Mike Walchko - 88
6th - David Dunn - 81
7th - Hank Girardin - 73
8th - Craig Garlock - 71
9th - David Geurtsen - 67
10th - John Henry - 66

Congratulations to the Clearwater TU'ers that participated and did very well!

Bill Dorato and the Dorato Hare's Ear

Many fly fishers endlessly search for that “silver bullet,” the one fly that always seems to catch trout, especially under tough conditions. Well, a few years ago, a good fly-fishing buddy and fellow guild member, Dave Plummer, put me onto a dry fly that comes close to filling that tall order. The name of this pattern is the Dorato Hare's Ear, and this is its story.

William C. Dorato (1915–2000), known as Willie to his good friends, was a native of Albany, New York, an avid fly fisher, and quite an accomplished angler and fly tyer. He was also a founding member and first president of the Clearwater Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and he fished with the likes of Dud Soper, Dick Talleur, Art Flick, Frank Mele, Tony Bonavist, Del Bedinotti, and many other noted anglers. He frequented the Catskills, especially the Delaware system, plus the Battenkill near his home grounds. And it was on the Battenkill that he conceived his Dorato Hare's Ear while trying to imitate the hopping caddisflies prevalent on that river. According to longtime friend Del Bedinotti, Dorato's fly “created the illusion of movement due to the mix of wood duck wings and brown and grizzly hackle” and a body of hare's mask, “complete with spikes,” hair spikes that act like additional hackle legs.

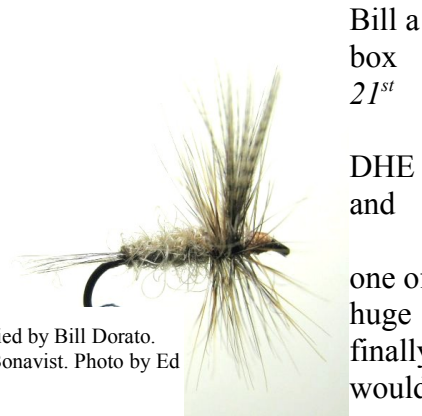
The late Dick Talleur thought enough of Dorato and his dry fly that he gave special mention to both in at least two of his many angling books. In chapter 26 of *Mastering the Art of Fly-Tying*, Talleur called “highly skilled and astute” tyer who can tie “classic patterns with the best,” yet “his fly-contains a vast array of nondescript, subtly seductive creations.” In *Trout Flies for the Century*, Talleur included three different variations of the Dorato Hare's Ear (DHE), recommending that this dry fly is best tied in sizes 10 to 16. Included were the basic originated by Dorato, plus a Light and Gray Dun DHE, the work of Talleur's creativity love of the pattern.

In an e-mail that Talleur sent me several years ago, he wrote, “The DHE is still my main go-to flies. A few years ago, on the Farmington in CT, I hooked a brown on a size 14 Light Dorato, just at dusk. I played it for quite a while, it wrapped me around a rock, and that was the ball game. I'm pretty sure it have been the biggest trout I ever caught.”

Both Eric Leiser in his *Book of Fly Patterns* and Terry Hellekson in *Fish Flies* include a little bit of material on this dry fly, but other than that, the average fly tyer might be hard pressed to locate much information on the pattern. I feel very lucky that Dave Plummer introduced me to this dry fly several years ago, and it is now one of my main go-to dry flies, too, for finicky, large, surface-feeding brown trout on tailwater streams such as the West and East Branches of the Delaware River. It's also produced hard-to-move trout on Catskill freestone streams such as the Esopus and Willowemoc, and just this past summer, it accounted for its share of cutthroat trout out in Yellowstone. I like a Dorato Hare's Ear when caddis are about and on small hooks when Blue-Winged Olives are active. I tie this pattern in sizes 16 to 20, but a size 18 is by far my favorite size under almost all conditions.



Dorato Hare's Ears. Flies and photo by Ed Ostapczuk



Dorato Hare's Ear tied by Bill Dorato.
Courtesy of Tony Bonavist. Photo by Ed Ostapczuk

Both Del Bedinotti and Dick Talleur are in agreement on the pattern for a basic Dorato Hare's Ear, and it is as follows.

Thread: Camel or brown

Wing: Wood duck
Tail: Brown and grizzly hackle barbs, tied very short
Body: Hare's ear mask with spiky guard hairs
Hackle: Brown and grizzly, mixed

Dave Plummer uses two grizzly hackle tips instead of brown and grizzly hackle barbs for the tails on his Doratos, so some variations of this pattern certainly exist, as is the case for most successful trout flies. Many thanks to **Tony Bonavist, Del Bedinotti, and Dave Plummer** for background information used to pull this article together and for introducing me to this highly effective dry-fly pattern. *Editor's Note – reprinted with permission from Edward Ostapczuk as it appeared in the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild Gazette December 2012*

Fly of the Month: Hi Viz Beetle

Summer is upon us and beetle patterns are a wise choice to catch trout and panfish with the grandkids this summer. For many of us, and the young ones too, is that squinting to see the dark patterns on the water makes the venture significantly less enjoyable. The solution is the Hi Viz Beetle. Tied a variety of ways they need to float well (although sunk terrestrials are a smart choice too) and be seen to the anglers to be most effective. This link to the top 5 mistakes trout anglers make while fishing land based patterns is a great read and complements this month's pattern well -

<https://www.monthlyfly.com/top-5-mistakes-trout-fly-fishers-make-fishing-terrestrials-summer/>

Pre – cut some black foam(although I've seen these patterns tied with orange, yellow and red too) and tie it in at the bend of the hook. Piece should be no more than 1/8th of inch thick and just hang over each side of the shank/body. Tie in dark hackle for legs and then 3 strands of peacock herl for the body. Wrap forward the herl and tie off followed by the hackle. Pull forward the foam back and tie off leaving a small amount hanging over the hook eye. Tie in your choice of foam, cdc or glo bug material in an easy to see color on top of the foam where you tied it off. Whip finish and off you go. I've enclosed two different styles of hi viz beetles on page 1 and below.



Remember only one newsletter during the Summer months – next issue due out in late July

Have a Great and Safe Summer!

