

THE BOB DWYER FISHING CLUB MAY - 2011

President's Corner

As a long time fishing organization in the Catskills, the quality of water, stream maintenance and fish stock is essential to our club. Trying to compare the trout caught within the BDFC area of fishing from the early days to now, is quite dramatic. We seem to be catching larger trout but not nearly as many. Of course many reasons enter into the equation as to why this is. First and foremost is the fewer number of hours we spend actually fishing, not to mention the fact that we are not in control of the weather during those windows of opportunity that we are able to get out. And as a result, it's either feast or famine ... mostly famine of late.

I can remember years ago, while staying at Charlie & Margaret Eisele's farm on the Batavia Kill, Tommy Kerr rousing us from bed at 5am with his call: "**Get your asses up ... Time's awasting!**" That was then, now many of us are lucky to be on the stream by noon. Then, of course we have the situation with the *Mergansers* which are pillaging the streams of small trout and the fact that the *Fall Rains* that brought the Dimmicks to the Catskills are no longer occurring in a timely enough fashion for us to take advantage of them. Of course, in the past we had some exceptional fishing along *rip-rap* found along many of the streams. Much of this rip-rap has since collapsed and washed away as a result of the many devastating floods over the years.

Many of us now fish with artificial lures when in the past worms were by far the favorite bait with minnows (red fins) coming in a close second. Do any of our members have photos of the times at Eisele's or Hewitt's to show our newer members the trout that these streams provided? To help shed a little light on these issues, Bob Dwyer plans to contact the DEC in Stamford to see if one of the staff members can join us at our next dinner meeting. Let's have *your input* at that meeting as well.

By the way, I would like to thank everyone on the prompt payment of your dues. Please let Gary Simmons know if and when you'll be staying at the Mountain Brook Inn. He can be reached at 877-692-7665 or by email at mountainbrookinn@aol.com. The dinner meeting will be at the Mountain Brook Inn on Saturday, June 11th. Cocktails at 5pm, meeting at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. I need to advise Gary as to how many he can expect for dinner that evening so send me an email at mwinst54@aol.com to confirm your attendance.



Len Winstanley

**President
BDFC**

Other Corners Heard From

Tim Flynn wrote the following on April 29th: “It’s time for all of us to get moving again and Dave (Dimmick), the membership is always eager to hear updates, tidbits and words of wisdom from our recent past president and sage fisherman. So don’t be shy. **Lenny (Winstanley)** and I spoke the other night about having a roundtable discussion about current and pertinent topics for upcoming meetings. For the spring meeting we are planning a discussion on **hydraulic fracture drilling** for natural gas (fracking) that is happening now and expansion planned for, in New York. I plan to task our resident Environmental Engineer/High School Teacher (**Chris O’Gorman**) with doing a short presentation of the process, the economic and energy related benefits of harnessing the deposits of natural gas and the environmental concerns and risks coupled with the process.

To which **Dave Dimmick** replied on May 3rd as follows: “**Fracking?** Your humor is only exceeded by your attempt to catch the *big one* and to *break par* on the Delhi golf course. I would rather talk about athlete’s foot or lie in a mound of ants after getting coated with honey. I seriously doubt that fracking will take place during our time in the Catskills as it will be tied up in court for many years to come. It is a topic in our paper every day, as we live *on the Marcellus shale deposit*. Look how long the battle has been raging over the *Resort at Belleayre*. Anyway, eventually it will take place but under safer procedures than what they have now.”

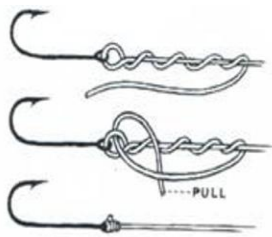
Dave did send me a note indicating that he, his brother **Don** and brother-in-law **John Miselnicky** made a trip to Bovina Center in mid April for a few days. He said that they did very little fishing (time wise) as the water was very high due to the rain and snow. The warmest day (mid forties) was when they got there on Thursday (April 14th) and that it was all downhill from there. The next morning it was 26 degrees and the wind was unbelievable. The weekend found the West Branch colored in Delaware County mud and over its banks!

They tried fishing several places on the Little Delaware, up through Denver Valley, Betty Brook and Towne Brook. He said that they wound up with eleven trout with the biggest about 13 inches or so. Then he closed by saying, “I guess we really didn’t care about the trout anyway – just getting the three of us together for three nights was fun.” **Amen!**

Another Fish Tale

Among freshwater records many anglers thought would never be broken was that for Brown Trout. Since 1952 the generally accepted world mark has been a 35 pound 15 ounce fish caught in Argentina. However, there’s a new record with certification of a 38 pound 9 ounce brown caught last August 7th on the North Fork of the White River in Arkansas by Richard Manley of North Little Rock. Arkansas fishery biologist Mark Oliver said the big brown was a male and estimated its age at 15-20 years. He said the fish probably was an offspring of brown trout stocked in the White River in the 1950s. Enhancing this *fish tale* is the fact that Manley was using a tiny no. 8 treble hook tied to a leader which tested at 3.7 pounds. In turn, the leader was tied to only 8 pound test line. His bait? A marshmallow and whole kernel corn. Truly a **southern rig**.

An Old Standby



I know that many of us have come to use the polymer knot most often these days. But I must admit that I was weaned on the knot that my father taught me how to tie and that was the *Clinch Knot*. The clinch knot is used for tying a leader to a hook, snap or lure. To tie it, run about three or four inches of the end of the leader through the eye, then twist it around the leader for several turns and double it back. Next, put the end through the opening next to the eye. Then run the end through the big loop as shown. To tighten, wet the knot with saliva, pull on the end and slide the turns towards the eye **Shazam!**

An Old Fashioned Approach to Fishing

May is a month often marked by showers and thunderstorms, and every time there's rainfall in the late afternoon or early evening it takes me straight back to my boyhood days. Back then, such a weather development would mean getting out a flashlight and a big bucket, putting on some old clothes, and heading out for an event of *night crawling*. Those giants of the world of worms brought most welcome cash money to put in a boy's pocket, with the going price being a penny a piece.

On a good night I could earn ten bucks or more. I bought my first fly rod from the Jewell tea man from the money I earned selling night crawlers. My biggest customer was **Leonard Hoffman**, a man who owned the grocery store across the street from our home on Ackley Avenue in Johnson City, New York. He was a favorite trout fishing companion of my father, back when I was a kid. Being the proprietor of a grocery store, he was also a *butcher*. The *same profession* in which **Perry Dimmick** raised his family. So there you have the *connection* which brought us all together.

To this day, night crawlers remain a type of favorite bait, but seemingly no one gets their own anymore. Instead, they buy a container at their favorite sporting goods store for around three dollars a dozen (wow, did I get ripped off). And that's all well and good, but thinking about those days of picking bait with a transistor radio attached to my belt, as I listened to a Yankees game ... brings a smile to my lips and a gladness to my heart.

So with these thoughts in mind, let's take a short stroll down memories lane in the form of ways we used to collect our own bait. Catching night crawlers always required quick hands and a good flash light. Of course it was also important to have a good *crawling place*, in my case it was the IBM Country Club golf course. But then there was an easier approach, and a daylight one for that matter, why not just dig them. After all, they were quite plentiful in rich deep soil, especially around a barnyard, garden or chicken lot.

I do have to mention the fact that grasshoppers are a favorite trout bait. I was fishing on East Brook in Walton with my brother **Rick** one day, and we saw a huge Brookie, fanning his gills in the middle of a run. We threw everything we had in our bait/tackle box at him and nary a strike. With that, I wondered out into the field and snatched a grasshopper. First cast ... ***bang!***

Seining minnows, whether with a homemade net of the kind we used decades ago (it was just two sacks laced together) or a fancy store bought rig, could be just the trick for filling a minnow bucket prior to a trip to your favorite stream. Most of our personal seining was done in small streams, where we got large quantities of red fins as well as a few brookies (OMG they were good eating), but of course we put them back.

I recommend you give this old fashioned approach to fishing and the collecting of bait, a try. It will take you back a ways, and instill in a youngster, some memories which will endure. And with that said, I am pleased to inform you that Bob Dwyer's son - Robbie, will be bringing with him, the **fourth generation** of the Dwyer family to the Catskills ... **Russell** and **Ryan Dwyer**. What a proud week it will be for all of them. I look forward to seeing you.



Jon Dwyer

**Publisher
BDFC**