



# THE TIPPET



NEWSLETTER OF THE GARY BORGER CHAPTER  
OF TROUT UNLIMITED

January, 2005

Volume 11, Issue 4

## COMING EVENTS!

JANUARY 6 - 9  
NORTHWEST CHICAGO SPORTS SHOW  
ARLINGTON PARK RACE TRACK  
(SEE "HELP NEEDED" P, 3)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Dinner meeting at the **Timbers Char House, 295 Skokie Valley Rd Highland Park, IL**. Guest speaker is **Dustan Harley**, "Effective Streamer Fishing for any Water".

The Gary Borger Chapter of Trout Unlimited will meet at the **Timbers Char House**. Cocktails at 6pm ; Dinner at 7 pm. \$25 for dinner and raffle. Contact **Jim Panagakis** at 847-705-8044 (home); 847-687-5801 (work); 847-991-7266 (FAX) or email [j440850@comcast.net](mailto:j440850@comcast.net) for advance reservation.

THE TIMBERS CHARHOUSE is in Highland Park, approximately 1/4 mile north of Lake Cook Road on Skokie Highway on the east side of the street.

SATURDAY, FEB 5TH  
AND  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6TH

### THE FLYFISHING SHOW

Saturday 9 AM to 6 PM Sunday 9 AM to 5 PM at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 18501 S. Harlem Ave Tinley Park, IL 60477. Link to the show:

<http://www.flyfishingshow.com/chicago.html>

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>h</sup>

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DAY AND DATE!**

Dinner meeting at the **Timbers Char House**. Speaker is **Kevin Searock "The Village Troutsmith"** on "An American Flyfisher in England."

### THURSDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>

Dinner meeting at the **Timbers Char House**. Speaker to be announced

### THURSDAY, APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>

Dinner meeting at the **Timbers Char House**. Speaker to be announced

### THURSDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup>

Dinner meeting at the **Timbers Char House**. Speaker to be announced

**GARY BORGER CHAPTER**  
**WEBSITE IS [www.garyborgertu.org](http://www.garyborgertu.org)**

## THIS MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER IS . . .



. . . . **Dustan Harley**, founder of **Ripple Guide Service**. I have known **Dustan** for many years and fished with him many times and can attest to his claim that he and his guides "strive to make your day on the water as enjoyable as possible. Our guides go the extra mile to

make sure your needs are met.”

A day on the river with **Dustan** gives novice and expert alike have the opportunity to experience the rivers he calls “home”. **Dustan** and his guides pride themselves in teaching all aspects of fly-fishing. As strong advocates of the preservation of cold water fisheries and the **Trout Unlimited mission, Dustan and his guides practice catch and release.** Whether you want to catch trophy fish or just spend a relaxing day on the water, Dustan’s and his guides’ knowledge of Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan rivers gives you the fishing opportunity of a lifetime without traveling thousands of miles or spending thousands of dollars.

Besides **Michiana** streams like the **St. Joe and Dowagiac, Dustan** and his guides fish the **Muskegon and Big Manistee Rivers** in lower Michigan, the **St. Mary’s River** near the Straits for Atlantic Salmon, the **Yellowstone and other Paradise Valley waters in Montana.** **Dustan** also outfits deluxe pack trips to the upper meadows sections of **Yellowstone Park’s** famous **Slough Creek.**

*Out of the bosom of the Air,  
Out of the cloud-folds of her  
garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown  
and bare,  
Over the harvest-fields  
forsaken,  
Silent, and soft, and slow  
Descends the snow.*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

**peace and happiness. Santa brought my family unforgettable moments and I hope he did the same for you and yours. He did happen to treat me to a few must-have fly-fishing accessories. Can’t wait to try ‘em out!**

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the January dinner meeting when we host Dustan Harley from Ripple Guide Service. He will be presenting a seminar on Streamer Techniques. Knowing Dustan, it should be exciting. The next few speakers will be eye-opening as we hope to see a few new faces joining our little family. We will be hosting Kevin Searock aka “The Village Troutsmith” in February. Please note that this will be a one-time weekend event because of Kevin’s hectic schedule. He comes highly recommended and his presentation on Fly-Fishing roots in England, short stories, and anecdotes will be informative and highly entertaining. We hope to see a large turnout for “The Village Troutsmith”!**

**As always, we will bring you up to date at each of our meetings on the current events, TU happenings, fishing shows, trout stream habitat improvements, shocking surveys, and anything else that may be of importance to us. Should you happen to come upon any vital information that may benefit our chapter, please don’t hesitate to contact me or any of the GBTU officers. Also note that we have joined the high-speed internet finally and have a new email address: [presgbtu@comcast.net](mailto:presgbtu@comcast.net)**

**Note that I will be trying some newer ideas that should benefit our chapter and would love to hear your questions, concerns, recommendations, and comments.**

**I will be bringing in fly-tying equipment on occasion and will tie a few flies at the beginning of our meetings. We are still offering GBTU name badges to our members as other local chapters have done. See examples on our board members shirts! If you have any interest in receiving one, please let me know!**

**I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the New Year. This will be a special event and I hope you can attend. We will have a special surprise and that’s all can say right now! Best wishes to you and yours during the New Year.**

Respectfully,

**Frank Nardomarino  
President, Gary Borger Trout  
Unlimited  
[presgbtu@comcast.net](mailto:presgbtu@comcast.net)**

## **THE DRAG FREE DRIFT**

**Hello GBTU Members:**

**As the Holiday season winds down, we will begin the hardest part of the off-season: WAITING FOR OPENING DAY! I truly hope that holidays were special for everyone and that the New Year brings you**

# WIND KNOTS

*By the editor*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! The**

**FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING WILL BE ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> instead of the regular second Thursday of the month. This change is for FEBRUARY ONLY! Time and place remain the same.**

As is the custom of the **Tippet**, the **January issue** is dedicated to the **memory of Gary LaFontaine. *Mon ami*, you are missed.**

**Dustan Harley**, one of the **Tippet's** and **Gary Borger Chapter's** favorites is the January speaker. **Dustan's** presentations are always new, informative, and entertaining. Don't miss this one!

Our own **Micki Moran** had a medical "close one" recently but is recovering nicely after some scary moments in the emergency room.

**Ray Schmidt** of **Schmidt Outfitters in Wellston, Michigan** reports: *The season has turned at this point. Water temperatures have gone on the slide and fish are moving into slack water. That means that they either drop out of the system or seek slower flows.*

*Despite lower metabolisms by fish this time of year, catching can be good! We have to think differently than we did when water is warmer. Slow down, seek softer water flows and keep flies small. Watch for a warming trend. Fish like winds from the south and southwest in the winter. A new rain can trigger a fish bite and of course a small rise in water temps will do the trick.*

## **Please release all wild fish!**

**Big Manistee:** The river is fishing good right now. The river is slightly above normal flows. Some great fishing for Brown Trout to be had below Tippy Dam now.

# WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST!

**By Micki Moran**

## **UPCOMING FLYGIRLS EVENTS**

### **UPSTREAM RISES...2004- 2005**

**Sat. Jan. 8, 2005:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fly Bee with Inge Schrey in Grand Rapids. Lunch will be served; cost \$10. Proceeds will be donated to the Flygirls. Maximum of 12

Steelhead throughout the system in fair numbers. Remember, it's winter so fish slow and be careful!

**The PM:** Steelhead and Brown Trout fishing is the order of the day, seek slower pools to fish.

**Bear Creek:** December can be a great month for Steelhead in the Bear, seek slower water and fish slow.

**Pine** Closed. . Re-opens last Saturday of April 2005.

**Little Manistee:** The weir is open for the remainder of the season. Remember the river is open up to Johnson's bridge until December 31. Check with the DNR for all rules. Steelhead are in the system now. The Little Manistee is a good December Steelhead/ Coho fishery.

**Contact Ray at [www.schmidtoutfitters.com](http://www.schmidtoutfitters.com) or 1-888-221-9056 for the latest fishing reports, guides or lodging.**

**Candi Rosel**, proprietress of the **Riverside Resort** at **Croton Dam** reports that there are **TONS of steelhead** in the **Muskegon** and that the guides are doing very well! Several guides, including **Dustan Harley** and **Matt Supinski** put their anglers up at the **Riverside Resort**. **For an up to the minute fishing report or guide recommendation call Candi at 231) 652-1292.**

When it comes to the **Big Hole** and the **Beaverhead** in southwest Montana, **Tom Smith** is as good as it gets. He will be at **Trout and Grouse** on **Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**. It will be a great presentation, I garownteeeeeeeeeeeeeeee. Details in **On the Fly**.

**Items sent for inclusion in the Tippet need to be edited for "fit" and content. Please send text in either Microsoft Word or as an Adobe pdf, photos as individual jpegs separately or Winzipped. Unsigned correspondence will not be considered for publication.**

The **Tippet** can be reached at **847-705-8044 (home); 847-687-5801 (work); 847-991-7266 (FAX) or email [j440850@comcast.net](mailto:j440850@comcast.net)**

----- *Carpe carp*

tyers. Experienced tyers please. Contact Inge Schrey (616) 246-5457 or [ischrey@hotmail.com](mailto:ischrey@hotmail.com)

**January 15:** Fly Bee, Pentwater, MI Contact Dorothy Schramm (231) 869-5487 or [jdschramm@oceana.net](mailto:jdschramm@oceana.net)

Experienced tyers please.

**Mondays Jan. 17th, Feb. 21, Mar 21, Apr 25,** 6:30-9:00pm East Lansing

Contact Sue Hull for location/directions 517-351-9256, [sue\\_hull2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sue_hull2000@yahoo.com)

**February 11-13:** Winter Retreat, Howell, MI Contact Sue Hull (517) 351-9256 or [Sue\\_hull2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Sue_hull2000@yahoo.com)

**February 19:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fly Bee with Inge Schrey in Grand Rapids. Lunch will be served; cost: \$10.00.

Proceeds will be donated to the Flygirls. Maximum of 12 tyers. Experienced tyers please. Contact Inge Schrey (616) 246-5457 or ischrey@hotmail.com

### **Monday Evening Fly Tying**

**February 21st**, 6:30-9:00pm East Lansing

Contact Sue Hull for location/directions  
517-351-9256, sue\_hull2000@yahoo.com

**February 26:** Fly Bee with Dennis Potter, Grand Rapids, MI Contact Julie Nielsen (616) 874-7163 or tyerii@aol.com Experienced tyers please.

**March 12 - 13:** Michigan Fly Fishing Show, Warren, MI Contact Jennifer Nelson (248) 414-7636 or matukajenn@yahoo.com if you can help work the Flygirls Booth. For show information www.mffc.org

### **Monday Evening Fly Tying**

**March 21st**, 6:30-9:00pm East Lansing

Contact Sue Hull for location/directions  
517-351-9256, sue\_hull2000@yahoo.com

**April 1-3:** Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, Minneapolis, MN www.greatwaters2005.com

**April 22 - 24:** National Trout Festival, Kalkaska, MI for additional information checkout their website  
www.kalkaskami.com/trout/

**April 23:** Trout Season Opens in Michigan!!!!

### **Monday Evening Casting Clinic**

**April 25th** 6:30-9:00pm

Contact Sue Hull for location/directions  
517-351-9256, sue\_hull2000@yahoo.com

**June 10-12:** Flygirls Fly-Fishing School, Grayling, MI. This school is already full, but we are taking names for a waiting list. Contact Nancy Lounds (616) 669-9049 or yoopnancy@aol.com

**June 17 - 19:** GLC Annual FF School at the MacMullen Center on Higgins Lake, MI. Contact Jim Schramm (231) 869-5487 or jdschramm@oceana.net

**June 25 - 26:** Wakeley Lake and Hex Hatch Fishing Frenzy, Grayling, MI Contact Joan English (989) 821-6156 (Jenglish@freeway.net) or GERALYN MONFILS (231) 972-4468 (gmonfils@directway.com)

**June 25:** Flygirls Fishing Contest, Ausable River, Grayling, MI Contact Julie Nielsen (616) 874-7163 (tyerii@aol.com)

**July 9:** Muskegon River Trout Outing. Newaygo, MI Contact Kris Nichols (nicholskris@charter.net) or Inge Schrey (wmschrey@hotmail.com)

**August 8 - 14:** FFF Annual Conclave, Livingston, MT For more information see the FFF Website.  
www.fedflyfishers.org

**September 30 - October 2:** Flygirls Annual Meeting and Salmon Outing, Irons, MI Contact Nancy Sikkenga (231) 828-6618 (sikkengan@reeths-puffer.org)

## **HELP NEEDED!**

### **NORTHWEST CHICAGO SPORTS SHOW - ARLINGTON PARK TU BOOTH SCHEDULE ---**

*You can check out details of the show at:  
www.nwchicagosportsshow.com*

#### **Jan 6th – Thursday 3pm – 8pm**

Afternoon/Evening: (including set-up) **Mark Wortsmann Need at least 1 more Volunteer** --- + \_ hr. “Fly Tying Made Simple” Presentation @ Outdoor Life Stage @ 5:30pm )

#### **Jan 7th- Friday noon – 8 pm**

Noon to 3:30pm: **Bob DeGraff plus need at least 1 more Volunteer**

3:30 – 8pm: Scott Roane plus **need at least 1 more Volunteer** + \_ hr. “Fly Tying Made Simple” Presentation @ Outdoor Life Stage @ 4pm )

#### **Jan 8th- Saturday 10 am – 8 pm**

10 am – 3 pm: **Need at least 2 Volunteers** – \_ hr. “Fly Tying Made Simple” Presentation @ Outdoor Life Stage @ 12 pm) **3 pm 8 pm: Need at least 2 Volunteers**

#### **Jan 9th- Sunday 10 am – 5 pm**

10 am – 2 pm: **Need at least 2 Volunteers** – \_ hr. “Fly Tying Made Simple” Presentation @ Outdoor Life Stage @ 12 pm) 2 pm – 5 pm including (closing out booth) **Need at least 2 Volunteers**

**CONTACT MARK WORTSMANN IF YOU CAN HELP! [mwortsmann@aol.com](mailto:mwortsmann@aol.com) ; cell phone number is 312-961-8958.**



# **SHOP TALK!**

**TROUT AND GROUSE**  
**300 S. HAPP ROAD**  
**NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS**  
**847-501-3111**  
[www.grandslamshops.com](http://www.grandslamshops.com)

**Beginning Fly Tying:**  
*Jan 27, Feb 3-20-27 Thursdays 7-9 PM*  
**Dry Flies for Midwestern Trout:**  
*March 10-17-14 and 31. 7-9 PM*

**Hexagenia Imitations:**  
*Saturday, April 10: 9-1 PM*  
All classes take place at Trout and Grouse  
and will be taught by Paul Melchior.

**ONE-DAY FLY FISHING**  
**CLASSES FOR 2005**  
\$195.00 per student, classes meet at T&G.  
Call T&G for more info. 847-501-3111

April 7, 2005  
May 15, 2005  
June 5, 2005  
June 26, 2005  
July 17, 2005  
August 7, 2005

## **ESCORTED TRIPS:**

**May 21 to 26:**  
**Exuma Island, Bahamas.**

5 nights, 4 days of guided bonefishing. Bones average 3 lbs, with large schools of 25 or more not uncommon. Modern, comfortable lodge, excellent meals, experienced guides. \$1995 per angler for all meals, accommodations and guided fishing. Airfare to Georgetown, Exuma is not included.

**Sept 13 to 18**  
**Quebec Atlantic Salmon fishing:**

A most unique fishery with 7 different rivers within close proximity of the lodge. Gin clear water, large pools, good chances for dry fly action on acrobatic Atlantic Salmon that average 7 to 10 lbs and can go well over 25, even 30 pounds on occasion. Comfortable, inviting lodge, well prepared meals. \$2000 per angler

for 5 nights accommodations, all meals, and 4 days guided fishing. Airfare is additional.

Join **Curt Schlesinger** for a few days of prime-time river smallmouth fishing in Wisconsin. Having fly fished all over the world, river smallmouth in Wisconsin still ranks high as one of the favorites. We have figured out the lodging, food & non-alcoholic drinks, drift boats, quality guides, on a top fishery. There are two (2) two-day three night packages available: July 24 - 26, 2004 and July 27 - 29, 2004. Cost is \$675.00 per angler. **Call Curt for more information.**

*For further information call Paul at Angling Escapes 847 441 3195 or Trout and Grouse 847 501 3111*

*"Bass fishermen watch Monday night football, drink beer, drive pickup trucks and prefer noisy women with big breasts. Trout fishermen watch MacNeil-Lehrer, drink white wine, drive foreign cars with passenger-side air bags and hardly think about women at all. This last characteristic may have something to do with the fact that trout fishermen spend most of the time immersed up to the thighs in ice-cold water."*

*- New Yorker Magazine, June 13, 1994*



**PETER SYKES AND ST. JOE  
STEELHEAD, DUSTAN HARLEY AT THE  
OARS**



**TIPPET ON THE LEFT, DUSTAN HARLEY  
ON THE RIGHT,  
ST. JOE STEELHEAD IN THE MIDDLE**



**DICK DRAGIEWICZ AND A DANDY  
SAN JUAN RIVER RAINBOW!**



**JIM EUBANKS AND A FINE  
MUSKEGON RIVER STEELHEAD**

## ON THE FLY!

*The purpose of this column is to present a forum for the members to share experiences, recommend destinations and guides, identify points of interest, advertise fishing items for sale, post helpful hints, find a fishing partner, review a book, complain about the Tippet, etc.*

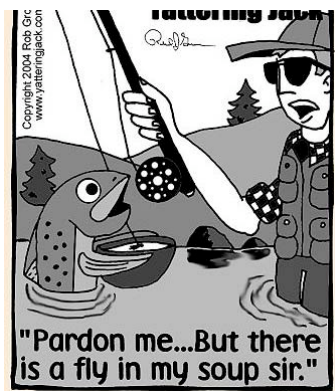
### AN EVENING WITH TOM SMITH! THURSDAY, FEB 3

*Spend an evening with noted Montana guide and outfitter Tom Smith, owner of Backcountry Angler in Dillon, Montana.*

*A Chicago native, Tom emigrated West decades ago and has established himself as a premier guide and outfitter on the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers, among others. Join him at Trout and Grouse from 7 to 9 PM for an informative and entertaining slide show and discussion.*

### WINTER FISHING TRIPS WITH ED STEIN

Ed has two great fly-fishing trips coming up this winter and each trip has one opening left to fill. February 4 – 13, Peacock Bass on the Rio Araca tributary of the Amazon River in Brazil. March 12 – 20 at Crocodile Bay in Costa Rica for Sailfish, Roosterfish and more; Lefty Kreh will be there. Many T.U. members who have visited Crocodile Bay with Ed have said that the adventure was the best fishing experience they ever had – the trip-of-a-lifetime! For more information, contact Ed: [rollcast@comcast.net](mailto:rollcast@comcast.net)



## THE VISE SQUAD BLOTTER

### Gary La Fontaine's Lady Heather

*This Gary LaFontaine original was inspired by his daughter Heather and named in her honor. Gary tells us why we need to have this pattern in our fly boxes, how to tie it, and how to fish it.*

My first attempts at developing a good dry fly for gray days all suggested simplification. This was a difficult concept for me to accept - all of my patterns were supposed to be dazzling deviations from the norm, caricatures that attracted even as they imitated important food forms. But on dark days active trout showed a preference for basic, drab flies; and each new version of the Lady Heather evolved into a simpler pattern.

From the beginning the Lady Heather was meant to be a Trude variation. The differences were the mixed grizzly and gray hackle and a prominent egg sac. That egg sac ended up being the biggest problem with the fly. It was lime green or burnt orange on the first test versions, logical choices considering the coloration of real insect eggs, but trout shied from those bright hues on gray days. We left the egg sac off on some test variations, but in the close comparison of head-to-head fishing a Lady Heather with a gray egg sac (that no one remembered tying) did better than the fly with the all-cream body. That gray ball at the rear of the pattern helped because it provided a contrast with the cream body and white wing without the brightness of the earlier egg-sac imitations.

The test gave me my gray-day pattern --a downwing, easy to see, riffle-water dry fly. It broke one of the oldest axioms in fly fishing. Gray day, gray fly. It was drab, except the white wing, but it wasn't all gray. The Lady Heather did as well or better in tests against my other favorite patterns for cloudy days, the Gray Trude and Gray Wulff.

The Lady Heather has another interesting quirk. It caught more brown trout than other flies in overcast conditions; the all-gray flies did better on rainbows. Many anglers have noted that browns have an odd affinity for the color white. My experience with the Lady Heather bears that out. Brown trout come further to take a Lady Heather, especially under the darkest, most threatening skies.

## Materials

**Hooks:** 10-18 (standard dry fly, TMC 100).

**Tail:** Dark blue dun hackle fibers.

**Butt:** Gray muskrat fur (dubbed.)

**Body:** Cream fur (wrapped or dubbed; thinner than the butt.)

**Wing:** White calf tail.

**Hackle:** Grizzly and dark blue dun (mixed).

## Tying Instructions:



1. Tie down hackle fibers for a tail.



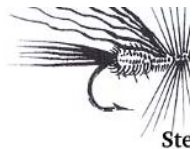
2. Dub a thick butt of gray muskrat fibers.



3. Dub or wrap a thin body of cream fur.



4. Bind down a wing of white calf tail.



5. Tie in a dun hackle and a grizzly hackle; wrap them together. Whip finish.

## Fishing the Lady Heather

*Even through the worst years of drought the Bitterroot has fished well. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has purchased water from Painted*

*Rocks Reservoir and these releases keep the Bitterroot flowing well in mid-summer.*

Ed brown, Glen Tryan, and I floated the stretch above Hamilton and proved what everyone says, "The Root is a moody river." Two weeks ago Green Drakes and Brown Drakes were all over the water. Browns and rainbows were in the prime lies and schools of whitefish were spread out over the flats. The rise went on all afternoon.

This morning the weather looked perfect, the same solid overcast, not dark but medium gray, that produced great dry fly fishing during the Drake hatches. There were no bugs of any kind on the water today, however, and only a few sporadic rises.

At first a Gray Wulff did as well as anything, pulling up fish as we drifted and cast to banks. Ed was in the back seat, throwing accurately, with enough slack to get good drifts right on the foam line, and was catching a few trout (best a 17-inch brown.) Glen wasn't doing as well, but his problems had nothing to do with the fly. Fishing from a boat was new to him, and he was casting too straight, his line devoid of slack on the water. He started changing patterns every ten minutes, looking for magic that didn't exist.

When we stopped to wade a long riffle, Glen fished beautifully, all of his confusion in the boat gone, but he was still switching flies. Even after catching a fish, he would snip off the successful pattern.

"What are you doing?" I asked.

"Playing around," he said.

Here was a man after my own heart. The least I could do was give him a few more patterns to play with on a slow fishing day. I handed him a few Lady Heathers with the batch of flies.

The storm was building, the clouds piling up thicker in the river valley. All this gloom apparently perked up the trout for dry flies, both Glen and Ed yelling with each hookup. I was working subsurface, dead drifting a Prince nymph on the bottom, terrorizing the whitefish and occasionally catching a nice trout, but the fishing stayed the same for me.

Ed called me down to take a picture of a fat, 19-inch brown. The trout had a Lady Heather in her mouth and Ed pointed to it, "This has been taking fish for the last half hour."

"Have you been changing flies every time you catch something?"

"Heck, no, I got this from Glen and I'm not giving it back." ~ *Gary LaFontaine*

From Gary LaFontaine's **Trout Flies - Proven Patterns**, Published by Greycliff Publishing.

## PASSAGES

**Stilmeadow Lady Belana, my present Gordon Setter is as dedicated a flyfishing dog as there ever was, but her predecessor, also a Gordon Setter didn't really get into it until after his 6<sup>th</sup> year. What really cemented it for Kojack was the day Gary and I took him and Chester fishing on the upper Clark Fork below the settling ponds.**

**Gary, Chester, and Kojack, if there is no heaven for thee, there is no heaven for me.**

***I hope you enjoy this excerpt from Gary LaFontaine's Fly Fishing the Blue-Winged Olives***

### IN PRAISE OF DOGS -- AND ALSO ME

The world's most famous fly fishing dog, my boy Chester, is about ten years old now, and he's fished at least a hundred days a year every day of his life. In countless photographs of me fishing, one's that have appeared in magazines and books, there's Chester right by my side. He has been on television shows with me, floating rivers, hiking up to mountain lakes, and wading the streams. He's the star in three best selling fly fishing videos, stealing the show from his two-legged angling buddies. Most people love Chester, however, because of the stories about him in my books. It's there that they get to know the true character of the World's Greatest Fly Fishing Dog.

Anyone who watches Chester "fish" ends up wide-eyed in amazement. It is hilarious, but Chester isn't trying to be funny. The humor is how ruthless, how relentless, how focused he is on the water. He can't actually "fish," so the human standing next to him has to do the fishing for him. And that human had better do it right.

Steve Oristian came to Montana to fish with me. A friend asked him if he was intimidated by the idea of fishing with a fly fishing writer. This was the first time Steve was actually going to fish with me, but he quickly found out that I'm a very easy-going fellow on the stream. Steve had to fish with Chester, though -- and he called up his friend and told him, "Chester is the one who is the tough one to fish with."

We were on the North Fork of the Blackfoot River and I put Steve on a pool with wicked, mixed

currents. He stood there with Chester right next to him casting a dry fly to big cutthroats, but the tumbling water kept dragging his fly and that made him miss the strikes of the slow, deliberate risers.

Steve missed the first strike, and he gave an outraged yell. Then he glanced down and asked me,

"Did Chester just give me a dirty look?"

"That's his fish."

Steve cast again and missed a second trout. Chester actually stepped back to look at him this time. Steve cast a third time, and when drag snatched the fly he missed the third trout. Chester looked at him one more time, and then he stalked off the stream. Steve was muttering, "I can't believe it. I'm not good enough for him. He left me. A dog left me. Chester, come back."

For the rest of the week Steve fished magnificently, getting better every day, his skill levels pushed higher and higher by the dog standing by his side. And when he would net a fish, and hold it out for Chester to kiss, he would ask, "How am I doing, buddy?"

Chester actually helps me catch more fish -- by my own tally Chester adds more than a hundred trout a season to my total catch. Only a confirmed dog-hater wouldn't want Chester with him on the water. My fishing friends want Chester with them on the water.

Jeff Pill called me up last summer, "Gary, I'll be coming through Montana next week. I'll be driving right through your town, and right down your street."

"That's great."

"I was wondering if Chester can go fishing?"

Usually my friends pick up Chester, but they let me come along, too. Sometimes when we go to familiar spots, and I'm there with more than one person, I'll go with one angler and send Chester with the other. Chester can read water, leading the way up the stream for a fisherman. And he stops if a trout rises, staring at the spot where the fish rose on the river.

During the Callibaetis mayfly hatch on ponds near my home in Montana my faithful dog is my alarm clock. I've never been much of a morning person. Usually I stay up working until two or three in the morning, and then sleep until almost noon, but in August the Callibaetis start emerging at 9:30 a.m. That hatch is definitely at an inconvenient time.

During the summer months I keep working all night, and then at dawn I'll drive out to my favorite ponds. There are four of these ponds, known as the Job Corp Ponds, about fourteen miles from my home in Deer Lodge. I'll park by either Pond #1 or Pond #3, string up my fly rod, inflate my Water Master kick boat, and then with Chester riding on the back, paddle out onto the

water. Everything is calm, the morning sun is just beginning to kill the night chill, and nothing is going to happen on the surface for at least four hours. I stretch out and go to sleep. Chester curls up in back, right by my head, and does the same thing. I'm such a sound sleeper that I would snore my way through a feeding frenzy by the biggest slob trout in the whole pond, but at 9:30 a.m., when the first fish rises to that first Callibaetis dun, Chester hears it and immediately stands up, starts circling around, steps on my head, and wakes me up. I know that it's time to start fishing, and to find trout I follow Chester's eyes.

That's just one way he helps me catch fish.

Jeff produced the videos, Successful Fly Fishing Strategies, pairing up Dick Sharon and me for the on-camera fishing, but he also put Chester into a starring role. There were two clowns and a straight man -- and the straight man was a dog. When we started filming, one of the production people warned us that an untrained dog in the shoot would be a disaster. We just laughed at him. There was nothing untrained about Chester when he was fishing. Nothing could be more predictable. He was an angler, standing right by my side, his eyes on the fly or the strike indicator, fishing out every cast. He knew how to spot, stalk, and watch the playing and

release of trout.

Chester was such a great addition to the action that Jack Dennis even flew him down with us in a private plane to fish the Green River, the section below Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah. We filmed the video, Tying and Fishing Attractors, there.

The ancient Teutons, the ancestors of the Germans, had a saying: "All good dogs go to heaven."

Chester, my German Shepherd mongrel, is a very good dog, but heaven had better have trout streams or Chester isn't going. Chester is a fishing dog, instinctively born to fish just like some dogs are born to hunt birds. I didn't purposely choose him as a pup for this -- my daughter snatched him up from the side of the road when he fell out of the back of a truck. The truck kept going, the handful of puppy was frightened but unharmed, and I had eight pounds of new dog.

I couldn't have picked a more perfect fly fishing dog. There are good dogs for fishing and there are bad dogs for fishing. Believe it or not, I know what it is like to fish with a few bad dogs. Still, no one loves to fish with dogs more than I do. Great fishing dogs, good fishing dogs, poor fishing dogs, even horrible fishing dogs -- I love to be on the water with them all.

## **WHAT'S COOKING?**

### **MANGO CITRUS SALSA**

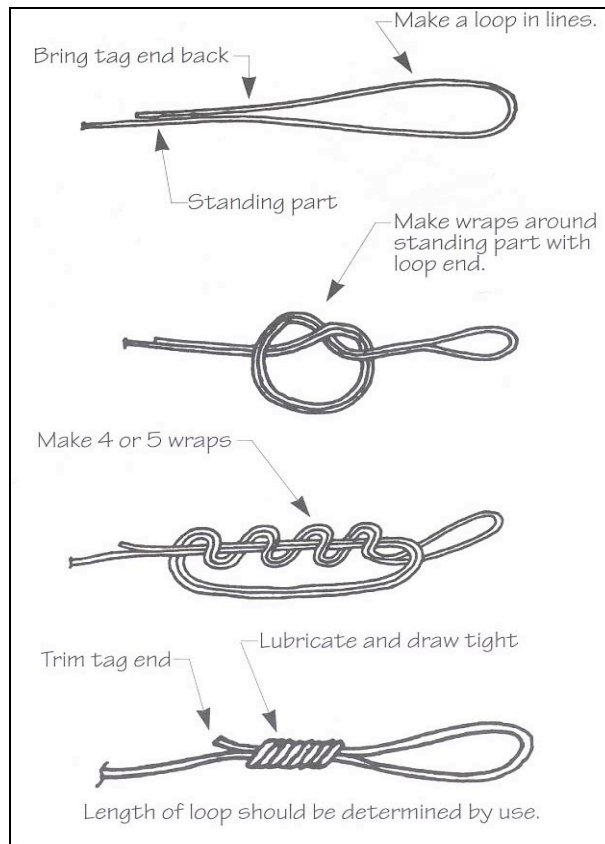
- 1 Ripe Mango (Diced)**
- 1 Ripe Granny Smith Apple (Diced)**
- 1 Red Onion (Diced)**
- 3 Plum Tomatos (Diced and Seeded)**
- 1 Pinch of Sea Salt**
- 1 Tablespoon of Extra Virgin Olive Oil**
- 2 Tablespoons of Cilantro (Chopped Finely)**
- 2 Tablespoons of Orange Juice**

**Directions:** Dice the apple, onion, tomato, mango into evenly sized cubes. In a bowl, add the salt, juice, cilantro, juice, and oil. Chill the mixture for a few hours. Serve over fresh trout or the fish of your choice. *(Submitted by Frank Nardomario)*

# KNOTS ABOUT YOU!

## THE SURGEON'S LOOP

*The Surgeon's loop is tied like the surgeon's knot except only a single line is used. One of the easiest and quickest loops to tie, it retains nearly 100% Of original line test. Ideal when a loop is needed quickly for loop-to-loop connection. 95% breaking strength.*



## BRING IN A NEW MEMBER . . . . WIN A FLY ROD!

Last year Trout Unlimited National cancelled the rebate program for members renewing their national memberships through their local chapters and replaced it shortly thereafter with a program that pays the local chapter one half of the first year's dues if a new member joins TU national through a local chapter. Gary Berger Chapter members who sign up a new member to TU national will go into a special raffle of a fly rod at the May 2005 meeting. Members from last year who paid their national dues through GBC while the original rebate program was in effect will also be placed in that drawing. Check with Mark Mellicker to be sure you get the paperwork done correctly in order to qualify for the drawing!

**MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENTS ARE DUE!!!**

The Gary Borger Chapter of Trout Unlimited needs your monetary support. The assessments are used to fund this newsletter, pay for speakers, and fund our conservation projects. Trout Unlimited National requires that 3 times a year we send meeting notification to the entire 350+ northern Illinois membership. The national office provides no funds help with mailings or anything else. To be a viable and vital chapter we need your contributions. Donations of \$25 individual, \$30 family, or \$100 sponsor go a long way! 2005 assessments are due by January 1, 2005. Send you checks to:

**GARY BORGER CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED**  
c/o Mark Melliker  
8802 McKinley Dr  
Barrington Illinois  
60010



**THE TIPPET**  
c/o J. Panagakis  
1365 E. Norman Dr.  
Palatine, IL 60074