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Sullivan County Democrat Reporter/Photographer and FUDR Field Technician Nyssa Calkin captured this photo of Lucas Resti wetting his line in the Neversink River.

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Late-Morning Toms

STORY AND
PHOTOS
BY GLENN
SAPIR

As a turkey hunter, you might think that there is no sound better than the gobbling of a tom from the roost during the first light of the day. What sound could be sweeter than that? For one, the explosive thunder coming from your shotgun when you draw a bead on your turkey.

That shot might come when the turkey you've heard on roost hits the ground and comes to your calling. As any experienced turkey hunter knows, however, the tom might exit in another direction, led by hens you might not have even been aware were in the area. He might answer your calls with gobbles as he follows those hens, but each gobble will be increasingly faint, until you eventually lose contact with the bird that you had anticipated would be going home with you.

What you might not realize is that your chance of meeting up with that tom again, or another gobbler, very well might present itself later in the morning. So, don't be discouraged. Keep hunting, or even go for breakfast, then come back in midmorning and try again.

One fact on which most hunters don't capitalize is that hens might not stay with their suitors all morning, especially as the season progresses when the hens have eggs or poults to which they must tend.

Truthfully, I used to get up for every hunt at the ungodly hours that required me to be in the woods before first light, so that I would be in place to hear those gobbles from the roost. I loved getting shock gobbles in response to my owl hoots and crow caws, setting up and seeing how the scenario played out. As I have gotten older, however, the idea of getting up in the wee hours has gotten old, too. I still do it; just not as often. That doesn't mean I hunt fewer days, but now I might start many of my hunts later, without suffering from unfilled tags at the end of the season.

Although I had long been aware of how productive the last couple of hours of legal shooting could be, it really hit



The author with an Osceola subspecies of wild turkey that he shot in Florida three years ago – hunting late morning!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

home, literally and figuratively, when my friend, Slaton White, joined me for spring hunt in late May. We walked out of my house and set up in the woods just beyond my backyard. I offered early-morning tree yelps and got a gobble in return. What transpired for the next couple of hours was a back-and-forth between the tom and us, but we couldn't coax him to leave the adjacent posted property. We could hear the yelping of the hen or hens that had captured his attention, and he wasn't about to leave a sure thing for an unseen mate.

Realizing the futility of our efforts, Slaton and I slipped back to my property quietly and unseen. Going to Plan B, we got into my vehicle, and I drove to another Hudson Valley destination a half-hour away. This second place was prime turkey habitat, but it did not yield any action. So, we eventually walked back to my vehicle, stopped off for a bagel and coffee and then returned to my house.

We again slipped into the backwoods and set up. I looked at my watch; it read 11:15. We had 45 minutes to make something happen. I gave a yelp and got an immediate response in the form of a gobble from the approximate location where the tom had been sounding off earlier in the morning.

Opposite page:
This is what every turkey hunter wants to see, and they have a good chance of seeing it if they stick out their hunting into the last hours of the morning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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The difference now was that no hens were emitting competitive yelps. They had left the tom after their early-morning breeding activity.

I gave out another yelp, softer this time, which, at least in my mind, lessened the urgency at our end, but still hopefully tantalized the tom. Apparently, I was right.

In minutes, the tom sounded off with another gobble, this one coming from a much closer location. He gave out one more gobble, which indicated he was even closer. Then he appeared. Slaton had been ready, and when he felt comfortable with the shot, he pulled the trigger. The reluctant early-morning tom had become an easy target in late morning. I looked at my watch again; now it read 11:45.

I've had many experiences through my 40-plus years of turkey hunting where I took turkeys in late morning. In fact, when I began my Grand Slam pursuit of getting four subspecies of wild turkeys in one season, the challenge began in Florida where I sought the Osceola subspecies. It was the second day of my two-day hunt, and

time was running out before the closing time would end my Grand Slam dream. I was accompanied by turkey-hunting legend Eddie Salter, who was doing the calling. Minutes before I had to put my gun away, we spotted five toms in a field. We quietly set up in woods below the field, and in no time, Eddie's calling was drawing the turkeys toward us, one after the other.

"Take the third one," Eddie whispered to me.

Pulling the trigger, I successfully got the first feather for my Grand Slam cap. That tom, incidentally, turned out to be the tenth largest Osceola on record at that time, according to National Wild Turkey Federation calculations that take into account beard and spur length and weight.

"Let that be a lesson to you," Eddie said to me as we congratulated each other. "Never give up. Never quit hunting until you have to."

Let that be a lesson to you, too. Late-morning hunts can get you your tom.

Glenn Sapir is a veteran outdoor communicator and turkey hunter. Among the honors he has received is induction in the New York State Outdoorsman Hall of Fame.

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Pileated woodpeckers are the third largest species of woodpecker in the world and are common in Sullivan County woods. 'Pileated' refers to the bird's prominent red crest, from the Latin *pileatus* meaning 'capped.'

In our woods, a big beautiful bird that lives quietly, sort of



Female pileated woodpecker checks out her three offspring in the 'treehouse' used for eating, sleeping and raising their young. Like most woodpeckers, her toes are arranged in a zygodactyl pattern—2 forward and 2 back—to better grasp and climb on trees.

BY KATHY DALEY

The largest woodpecker in North America makes its home in our forests – a magnificent and, yes, bigger-than-most bird. It's the pileated woodpecker, so named after the Latin word "pileatus" for the cap on its bright head.

The body size of this bird is typically 16 to 19 inches long, and both male and female birds sport red, white and black feathers. Living in our woods, the pileated woodpecker excavates tree holes to live in and to eat in and, come spring, to make more little pileated woodpeckers.

"It is at all times a shy bird," wrote John Jay Audubon, the famous bird expert from the 1800s, "so that one can seldom approach it, unless under cover of a tree, or when he happens accidentally to surprise it while engaged in its daily avocations."

Yet, he was still able to study the ways of the bird: "I was surprised to see how differently it worked on the bark of trees when searching for its food.

"On the hemlock and spruce, for example, of which the bark is difficult to be detached,"

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See Ads, pages 16-17




Artist, naturalist and bird lover, John James Audubon painted and wrote in the 1800s. Audubon had an affinity for birds, including these pileated woodpeckers. 'I felt an intimacy with birds ... bordering on frenzy that must accompany my steps through life.'

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he said. "The bird used its bill sideways, hitting the bark in an oblique direction, and proceeding in close parallel lines, so that when, after a while, a piece of the bark was loosened and broken off by a side stroke. The surface of the trunk appeared as if closely grooved by a carpenter using a gouge.

"On the contrary," continued Audubon, "when it attacked any other sort of timber (than hemlock or spruce), it pelted at the bark in a straightforward manner, detaching a large piece by a few strokes, and leaving the trunks smooth, no injury having been inflicted upon it by the bill."

Big Birds Everywhere

Pileated woodpeckers range from much of the eastern U.S. including Florida, and are found as far north as Canada and then west to northern California.

Stands of mature forest with plenty of dead trees and downed logs attract these big birds. Telltale signs are the large, oval-shaped opening to the nests, or the deep, loud drumming, or the shrill, whinnying calls or the high-pitched, piercing alarm call drifting through the forest.

In winter, in winter, a pileated woodpecker excavates its own hole and roosts by itself, each male and female tending to remain close to their nesting site and both sleeping alone.

With their stout, chisel-like beaks, the big woodpeckers dig for ants and wood-boring beetle larvae deeper than most other smaller woodpeckers can reach - even past the tree's thin layer of living tissue, according to the National Park Service. The birds also pick insects off branches and bark off trees in search of food.

After excavating a hole, a pileated woodpecker

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Females and males are similar except for the red cheek stripe on the male, at right. The birds are crow-sized or slightly larger, and survive on carpenter ants, beetles and other insects along with wild fruits and nuts.

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will use its long, barbed tongue and sticky saliva to reach and scrape out the bugs, including their favorite carpenter ants.

The sound of the pileated woodpecker's hammering carries a long distance through the woods. One beak can strike up to 12,000 times a day without, shall we say, going crazy. That's due to the bird's sponge-like rear skull bones and its well-cushioned brain cavity, according to the Park Service.

Springing Along

Pileated woodpeckers own a variety of "voices" from soft chucks to a louder, repeated "cuk, cuk, cuk" sound. Along with drumming against the resonant trunk of a dead tree, the calls are tied to courtship or territoriality. Head swinging, wing spreading displays, and crest-raising are common.

During the breeding season, male and female find a dead or decaying tree to excavate their home. Both build the new nest cavity some 15 to 70 feet high off the ground.

The female lays four white eggs, and both parents incubate. After about two weeks, the eggs hatch into the typically naked and helpless

young. Both male and female feed the babies with regurgitated insects. By four weeks, they fledge but remain dependent on the adults for several more months.

As nature deems it, one of our largest birds plays a key role in the life of other animals. For example, owls, bats and ducks use the woodpeckers' abandoned tree cavities to rest overnight. And, say the scientists, the work of pileated woodpeckers can eventually knock down a failing tree, speeding up its death and spreading healthy nutrients into the forest.

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PHOTO BY SETH CAVARRETTA

Students at Dette Flies enjoy Fly-Tying lessons on Saturday afternoons.

Fly tying *is* on the rise

BY JUDY VAN PUT

Tying flies is a pastime that has been handed down through the generations. And despite what some may assume, the pastime is not limited to those who fly-fish, but fly-tying is also enjoyed by those who do not.

It is an art that involves tying by hand bits of fur, feathers, tinsel and thread onto a hook to imitate an insect that will lure a fish - an art that attracts people who enjoy being creative and working on a time-honored craft that gives the satisfaction of being useful, if not lucrative.

Flies are a very necessary part of fly-fishing, and tying your own will not only save the necessity of buying flies, but also provides the advantage of tying exactly what fly you want to fish with when you need it.

Scott Biron, Master fly tyer and Boston University alum writes in *Bostonia* magazine that “Fly fishing and fly tying are ancient arts, and references to fly fishing appear as early as 200 AD. In the United States, there are references to Native Americans tying feathers to hooks that

were fashioned out of bone.”

Knowing that Native Americans predominantly used weirs, traps, spears and nets to catch fish in our area, it is interesting to read that Native Americans also caught fish by fly-fishing with deer-hair flies, according to the writings of early American naturalist William Bartram (1739–1823).

In one instance, Bartram writes about two people fishing from a canoe, the one near the bow holding a rod of ten or twelve feet in length with a string of about twenty inches in length to which is fastened “three large hooks, back-to-back. These are fixed very securely, and tied with the white hair of a deer’s tail, shreds of a red garter, and some parti-colored feathers, all which form a tuft or tassel nearly as large as one’s fist, and entirely cover and conceal the hooks...”

He describes how the fisherman swings the hooks back and forth just above the surface, sometimes dipping it in the surface of the water to raise a fish.

Fly fishing as we know it today came to America predominantly from Europe, with the earliest settlers using wet flies, or flies that sink below the surface. However, during the late 1800s and early 1900s a new era began that took advantage of the surface-riding mayflies found in the Beaverkill and Willowemoc, and American fly fishers took up fishing with floating flies as their English predecessors had been doing since about 1851. It was the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-born Theodore Gordon who popularized the method, after having studied Thaddeus Norris's *The American Angler's Book* and learning from that book at the age of thirteen the art of fly-tying.

Gordon was a talented writer as well, and wrote regularly for both the English and American publications proclaiming the praises of dry-fly fishing and encouraging others to try their hand at fishing flies that float.

He provided comprehensive instruction in the American publication *Forest and Stream* as early as 1906.

And it was here in the Catskills that a small group of expert professional fly tyers came to-



PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Seth Cavarretta teaches fly tying lessons on alternate Saturdays at Dette Flies, Livingston Manor, during the winter months through the end of March.

gether under Gordon's leadership and formed what would become known as the "Catskill School" of fly tying. This elite group included Reuben R. Cross and Roy Steenrod, who maintained that they learned to tie directly from Theodore Gordon, as well as such well-known fly-tyers as Herman Christian, Walt and Winnie Dette, Harry and Elsie Darbee, and Art Flick.

Walter Dette, born in 1907, moved with his family to the village of Roscoe when he was thirteen years of age. He quickly became friends with Harry Darbee, his seventh-grade schoolmate, and the two fished together regularly - first with worms and bait, then graduating to wet and dry flies.

And in 1927 the pair began to tie flies professionally. As each grew and married, their spouses, Winifred Ferdon Dette and Elsie Bivins Darbee, eventually joined the partnership until 1934, when the Darbees parted from the Dettas and established their own fly-tying business. Walt and Winnie's daughter, Mary Dette, joined her parents to help and became a noted fly-tyer as well. Decades later, Mary Dette's grandson, Joe Fox, continues the family tradition of operating



PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Many couples who have moved to the area have come to tying sessions at Trout Town Flies to meet, socialize and perfect their skills at the vise.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Dette Flies, now located in Livingston Manor, and today is in its 97th year.

Whether due to the many newcomers to the area over the past few years, both visitors and residents alike seem to have kindled a keen interest in the craft, and fly tying is experiencing a resurgence in popularity - as can be attested to by the fact that in the Town of Rockland there are at least four locations where fly-tying lessons and sessions are offered on a regular basis.

Dette Flies offers Winter Fly-Tying lessons with instructors Seth Cavarretta and Bob Adams every other Saturday from January through the end of March. The classes are geared towards beginners as well as those with some experience who wish to fine-tune their skills. The instructors have chosen a set list of flies to tie, and have planned out a Catskill program that will cover flies used on Catskill streams. In-depth learning includes a description of the flies and how to use the different materials required for each fly. All materials and tools that are needed are provided for the students or if preferred, they can bring their own. The classes are meant to be stand-alone but can be taken as a series and are limited to six people.

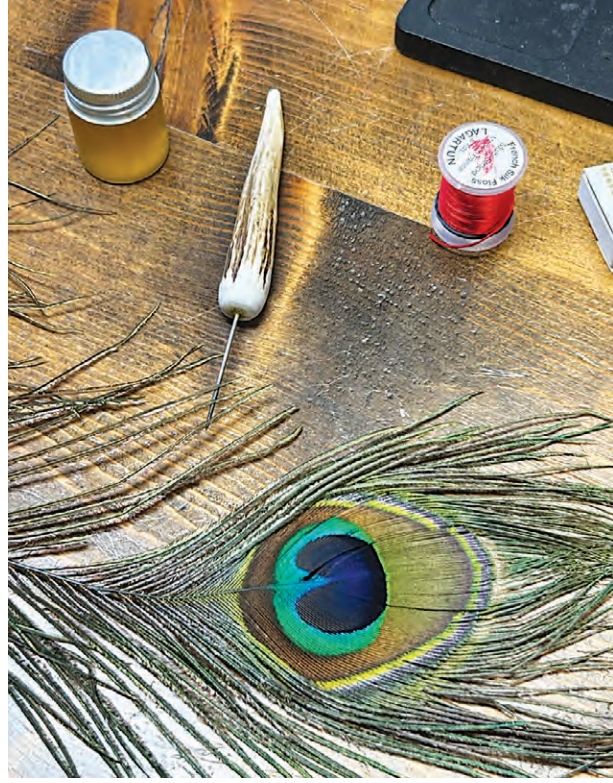


PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Some of the colorful materials used for fly-tying.

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PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Fly Tying Sunday morning session at Joe Rist's Trout Town Flies, Roscoe.

In addition, on alternate Saturdays, Dette Flies hosts open tying, with coffee and the camaraderie of other well-known tyers in addition to the Dette Flies crew.

Joe Rist of Trout Town Flies, Roscoe, NY, hosts tying sessions at his shop on Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a table (or two, depending on the number of tyers) set up for fly tying. Sessions are "open," and participants can enjoy tying flies of their choice and learn useful tips.

The idea was spawned last year on a quiet Sunday morning after it was suggested to set up a table for tying. As the word got out the fly tyers came in, and the sessions have become very popular. It's been especially appealing to newer residents and couples who meet, learn to tie, socialize and make a date to go fishing together.

Beginning sessions focused on learning how to use the bobbin correctly, learning to use the hook as reference points for proportions and how to tie a whip finish. Joe is available to offer instruction or a spare vise or tools, and on occasion has had volunteer instructors on board as well. There is room for ten to twelve tyers around

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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pages 24-25**



PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Joe Rist, at Trout Town Flies, Roscoe, hosts open fly tying sessions on Sunday mornings from 10 am - 1 pm.



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the table; he asks that those interested give him a call at 607-290-4107 to reserve a space.

Over at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, Livingston Manor, Tom Mason, Dave Catizone, John Apgar and members of the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild have been hosting open fly-tying sessions all winter long on alternate Saturdays in the Wulff Gallery. These sessions are open to all fly-tyers interested in gathering to tie and socialize during the winter months.

Sessions begin at 10:00 a.m., and tyers are invited to bring their vise and materials and share patterns, ideas and fishing stories. (These sessions have been coordinated with events being held at Dette Flies and Trout Town Flies to avoid scheduling conflicts.) Tying sessions will continue through March and all are welcome to come and tie or watch and learn.

On Thursday nights at Upward Brewery, Livingston Manor, Ross White hosts informal fly-tying sessions during "Happy Hour" - from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Participants bring their own vise and materials and socialize, tie flies and relax. Ross has been tying flies for about twenty years, having learned as a youngster from his uncle. (Inter-

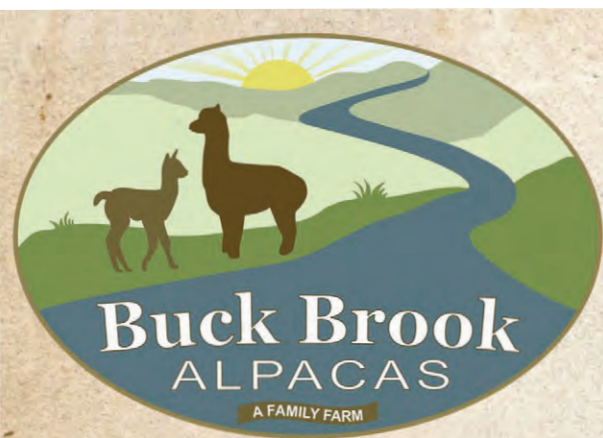
ingly, he wanted to learn to tie flies even before learning to fly-fish.) He moved to the area from Denver, where he had hosted fly tying at Colorado breweries, meeting new friends to tie and fish with. Ross offers advice and some instruction and demonstrates how to tie as well.

And for those who prefer tying flies in the comfort of their own homes, the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild hosts fly tying sessions for its members via Zoom.

Guild Vice President John Apgar suggested monthly meetings via Zoom after Covid-19 prevented people from gathering together. Today, the sessions are broadcast weekly on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. The Guild has grown steadily since it was formed in 1993 and has a membership of 300.

However, with the number of members who live in different time zones, such as the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden and England, (and who would need to stay awake after 1:00 a.m. to participate) additional sessions are being considered for Saturday mornings. For more information, or to join the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild, please visit their website at catskillflytyersguild.org.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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Judy Van Put is an avid fly fisherman who has spent countless hours on the water in Catskill-Delaware Country.

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PHOTO BY PHIL STREET

Photo of an Adams tied by Phil Street at the Catskill Fly Tyers Guild tying session held at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center.



PHOTO BY JUDY VAN PUT

Ross White hosts fly tying sessions at Upward Brewery on Thursday nights during "happy hour" from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

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STORY AND PHOTOS
BY DEREK KIRK

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Under the direction of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

dining guide

PAGES 30 & 31

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

the Browns and supervision from the venue's managers, Lex Galloway and Sonia McGinley, the century-old venue holds onto a sense of timelessness and class that matches the majesty of the Delaware River that runs just beside it. Venue Operator Curtis Brown highlights the connection between the venue and the year-round draw of the river, making The Jewel of the Delaware a must-visit location not just in Barryville, but along the entire course of the Delaware River's path that runs alongside Route 97.

Even while guests wait for the weather to turn warm enough to enjoy all the gifts of the river

like canoeing, boating and kayaking, locals and visitors alike can find their rest, recreation and rejuvenation at River's Edge right now with a menu that puts a focus on serving brunch and dinner.

Delectable staples on the menu use fresh ingredients, such as crispy tortilla, refried beans, queso, and sunny-side-up eggs to complete their Huevos Rancheros, or even a combination of a soft boiled egg, capers, dijon and a baguette are used to craft a fashionable egg sandwich. Their lunch menu boasts an equally appetizing selection of choices.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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River's Edge Operator Curtis Brown ensures the atmosphere of River's Edge is both enticing and comforting for guests of the restaurant, hotel, bar and event venue – all of which is located right in Barryville, just off the river.



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The restaurant has their doors open daily – serving dinner Monday through Thursday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Saturday, they serve brunch from noon to 4 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday's are reserved for brunch from noon to 4 p.m. Ensure your table by making a reservation for your party at www.riversedgeny.com/reservations.

In addition to the restaurant, bar and ballroom, the event venue also maintains a hotel

service – perfect for planning a wedding or other significant occasion in Barryville. Guests can book a hotel room on the River's Edge website, www.riversedgeny.com/rooms. Any further questions about all that River's Edge can provide for you and your party can be directed to their email, Info@riversedgeny.com, or their phone number (845) 456-0179.

Find a spot at the River's Edge and see just how brightly the jewel shines off of the reflection of the Delaware River soon.

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This fresh chicken sandwich cooked by Chef Molly Lopez is just one of the many meals that can be ordered at the restaurant at River's Edge in Barryville. When you're finished eating, grab a seat at the bar and enjoy a handmade cocktail.

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Off-roading with Bill Case Polaris



Owner of Bill Case Polaris, Craig Case, right, stands alongside his top salesman, Corey Kimble, with a top of the line Polaris ATV ready to become someone's new machine.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ALEX KIELAR

Bill Case Polaris in Beach Lake, PA was founded by Bill and Jean Case in 1970. Now run by their son Craig, the ATV dealer began to sell their first model snowmobiles in 1971 to their customers in rural Pennsylvania. Located at 408 Welcome Lake Road in Beach Lake, Bill Case Polaris continues to stay on the cutting edge of power sports development while remaining a small, local and family-run business that creates personal connections with its customers.

"We've been doing sales and service since 1970," Craig Case said.

The dealership in Northeastern Pennsylvania then began to sell the first four-wheelers that Polaris ever built in 1985 before they took on the Side-by-Side Ranger and RZR lines in 2009. Case said that they never did anything with the Indian Motorcycles that Polaris offers.

Case said that he used to run the business with his mother, Jean, before she passed away in 2014. He also said they had a long-time employee, who worked with them for about 20 years, move on four years ago.

"We take time to be with the customer," Case said. "We just had a young couple come



From top to bottom; Seen here are Side-by-Sides to the right and four-wheeler ATV to the left and back.

Who doesn't love a Side-By-Side with a beautiful camouflage finish and enclosed cab?

A front side look at the Camo Side-by-Side.

One of the Ranger Side-by-Sides that is on display at Bill Case Polaris with a green finish.

in and they said they had stopped at two different dealerships. One was getting ready to close and the guy goes, 'Well I'm closing at 1:00.' They had a machine the guy could've sold them and they didn't, so they walked out. So they went to another dealership and they just got a bad impression right away.

"Big places too," Case continued. "Everybody thinks they have to go to these great, big glamorous places. [The couple] lived in Wantage, New Jersey. They didn't even call here, they just showed up. They couldn't thank us enough. They got here at about 12:15, I'm here until 1 p.m. I showed them a few machines and they picked one they wanted. They filled out a credit application and they got approved right away. Corey [Kimble] did the paperwork, my main sales guy now. By 1:30 or 1:45, we had them out the door. They couldn't thank us enough for staying after closing."

Case also said that he has never wanted to have a big store or showroom as people don't care whether the machines are propped up or not. To him, it's about people just coming to look at the machines and being able to be as personable as possible with customers as well as taking care of the service side. He also said that they load the machines for their customers. Another thing that Case mentioned about the personable side of things is that when problems arise, he deals right with the customers.

"That means a lot to the customer, that you're dealing directly with the owner of the company," Case said.

Bill Case Polaris is not just about being personable through the purchase of these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41



Bill Case Polaris began selling Side-by-Sides of the RZR and Ranger lines in 2009. This is one of their four-seater RZR Side-by-Sides.

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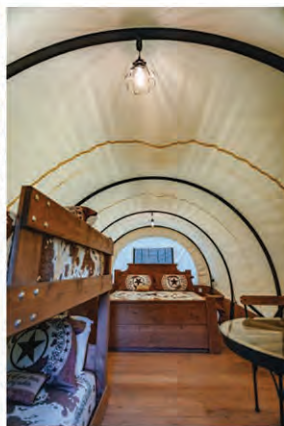


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Pages 40-42



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The storefront of Bill Case Polaris at 408 Welcome Lake Road in Beach Lake, PA.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

machines and accessories, either. Any services that you need to have done on any machine can be taken to them and they will fix it. They also do deliveries and pick-ups of machines and accessories.

Case also talked about looking to get the best prices possible for customers for services when something goes wrong with their machine. Case said that they have two mechanics, one part-time and the other full-time.

“Our thing here is to keep the customer happy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

and do whatever we need to do to fix things,” Case said. “My biggest thing is the service because everybody is looking at the service department stuff when they do a Google search to find out where they can get [their machine] fixed. They look for you to be honest and tell the up-front truth about what the deal is.”

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The Neversink Fishery needs a plan

BY JEFF SKELDING,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS OF THE UPPER DELAWARE RIVER

The Neversink River has a long history of trout fishing heritage in New York State. The Catskills are known as the birthplace of American fly fishing and the Neversink is one of its gems. But over the years, we've reached a crossroads as increasing pressures in the watershed present ecological challenges that threaten native and wild trout in the Neversink and throughout the Catskills.

Trout need cold, clean water, good habitat, and a healthy macroinvertebrate (river bugs) population in the river to thrive. But it's not just what happens in the river that matters, it's also what happens on the land. Unplanned development in the Neversink watershed is an increasing threat to water quality and fish populations.

Forest fragmentation, sediment

disturbance, increasing sewage, and stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces are all outcomes of growth that need to be planned for and managed properly. Climate change is causing more frequent and severe storms and warming air and water temperatures that cause habitat impacts unfavorable to trout survival.

As more and more people come to live and visit in the Neversink, local governments with finite budgets are struggling to adjust to these pressures. The Neversink River has never had a comprehensive plan that lays out a vision for the future of water resource management in the watershed. Until now.

Over the past year, the Sullivan County Department of Planning and Friends of the Upper Delaware River have worked with dozens of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

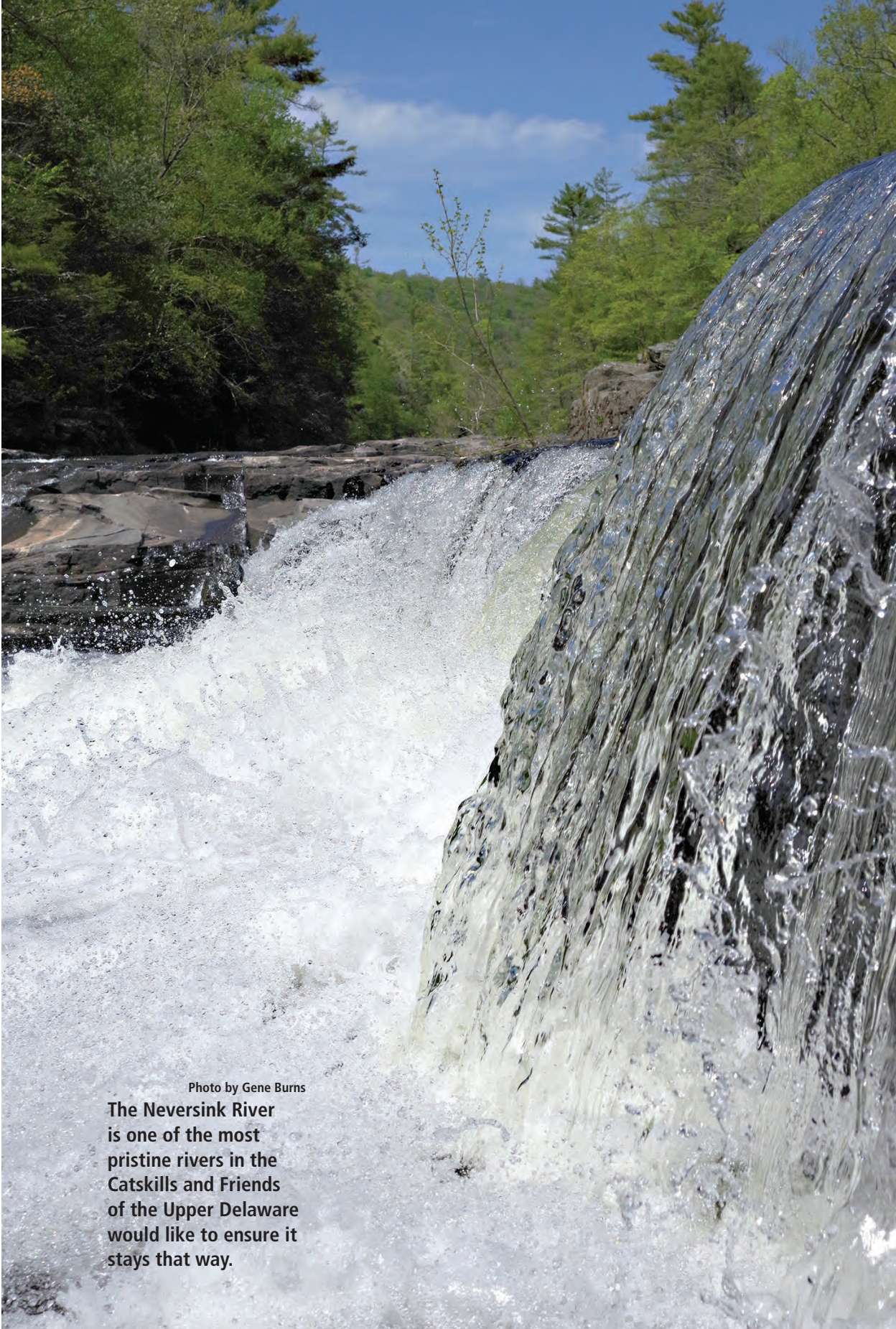


Photo by Gene Burns

The Neversink River is one of the most pristine rivers in the Catskills and Friends of the Upper Delaware would like to ensure it stays that way.



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PAGES 46-47



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

partners representing a wide variety of watershed stakeholders to launch a first-ever planning process that will inventory the watershed, identify its most pressing challenges, and make recommendations for how we can adapt and adjust to these changing times. The fish will appreciate it.

The plan focusses on water quality, habitat protection, climate change, and recreational opportunities. To ensure the plan is top notch,



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We need everybody to participate. One of the key constituencies that need to engage with us are anglers.

Anglers know the river and understand the importance of keeping it clean. Anglers tend to be on the front lines of conservation stewardship. Their love of fishing and fish enhances their understanding of the sensitive balance of the natural world. A significant component of the Neversink Watershed Management Plan will be to protect the fish of the Neversink, and we need anglers to engage.

We need anglers to tell us what you want in the plan and make suggestions that will improve the angling experience in the Neversink.

A series of public meetings will be scheduled for the fall of 2024 to finalize the watershed management plan for the Neversink. Look for notifications in the **Sullivan County Democrat** and please consider participating in one or more of them.

For more information on how to be a part of the plan, please contact Friends of the Upper Delaware River at info@fudr.org.

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guide pages 50-51

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CATSKILL DELAWARE STUDIO PHOTO BY GENE BURNS

A fisherman enjoys his day on the Neversink River.

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